Letter of Acknowledgment Assignment

We have *all* done something (and most of us many things) that perpetuate the inequities in our system, particularly to typically marginalized students. DEbT-M’s focus on race causes us to look carefully at what is happening to the black and brown students in our schools and classes. This assignment is asking you to acknowledge what you have done to these students, either one at a time or as a group. Many of these were enacted from a point of good intention...

You’ve seen the excerpts from the facilitators’ letters, now it’s your turn. Write a letter to yourself or to your former students that concretely illustrates specific practices that have undermined achieving racial equity in your classroom. Use the following questions as a guide to begin your acknowledgement letter – this is a jumping off point, not a comprehensive list:

- What do you acknowledge as times or experiences when you have created racial inequity in a mathematics class or with a student? Be concrete and specific.
- Why did you perceive this choice as legitimate at the time? Why do you no longer feel that this is a legitimate choice?
- Recall that to *examine the role and presence of whiteness* is the 6th condition in Courageous Conversations. If you don’t know why you made specific choices, reflect on how you think whiteness was showing up in this situation. Think about how students may have experienced this situation.