

The Effect of Perceived Ethnicity on Evaluations of Students' Spoken Responses

Michael Shepherd

Three studies in the 1970s found that when teachers heard equally good work presented orally by Black and White students, they evaluated the Black students' work significantly less favorably. To test the effect of ethnicity on evaluation nearly four decades later, we asked 59 experienced teachers to evaluate responses spoken by Black, White, and Latino second- and third-grade boys and girls. The results show that the same responses were evaluated significantly less favorably when spoken by minority students or White boys than when spoken by White girls. Possible implications of this new stigmatized status of White boys are explored.