How can educators, scholars, and leaders engage more effectively in raising public awareness and reframing the debate around book bans and DEI education, particularly through the media? In this interactive workshop featuring Kevin Kumashiro, learn how to engage in public discourses that support local teachers and schools.

To gain insight into teaching during these legislative and public attacks on literature and education policy, members of the Children’s Literature Assembly and AERA’s Literature SIG spoke to educators from around the country. Many educators feel isolated. They report feeling unsupported and scared of possible harassment if they use targeted texts and DEI methods. They know that the loudest voices don’t represent the majority and they wish for a shift in the public discourse. In response, we created this workshop.

We will review strategies for writing op-eds and offer tips for writing. The session outlines a framework to help structure your opinion piece, and includes a presentation by Kevin Kumashiro and hands-on work in small groups.