

On “Marc Lamont Hill Interviews Key Opponent to Critical Race Theory”:

- ❖ Rufo said specifically that he did not think the ideas of CRT were problematic, that the practices were. (Then proceeds to demonstrate that he doesn't actually know CRT at all... It's difficult to get a grasp on his ideas, because he doesn't really have one beyond his position of Anti-CRT.)
- ❖ Lamont said that pointing out positions of power and privilege is not in itself racist, and that CRT does not promote “white racism” in any way, but talks about whiteness because of its position in America. I love that as a concise definition.

Overall, it was a ridiculous interview to watch. In class, I kept thinking to myself about how insane it is that in our society, people like Christopher are in places to make changes all the time, and even so elevated to debate with a clearly *more* educated and intelligent man on a news network, where he is seen and heard by many, many people. The optimistic side is that those same people are also listening to Marc Lamont Hill as well and getting that side of the information. Like we said in class, I was very impressed not only with Mr. Hill's patience but also his eloquence, and genuine respect for a man much stupider than him. Mr. Hill was so intelligent to even turn the interview into a kind of lesson.

In retrospect, I think back to what we talked about in class, about Friere's ideas to liberate the oppressor for a truly free society. Rufo's pathetic demeanor and inability to answer any questions without repeating a made-up or irrelevant statistic or misdefine critical race theory didn't just put him in an antagonistic light, but a pitiable one. As he kept speaking with Mr. Hill, it became increasingly and viscerally clear that he was regurgitating information without having investigated anything himself, as evident by his growing nervousness. Friere's ideas that oppressor must be freed comes from a place of compassion, and I think I understand that concept more than ever these days, but I can't help imagining first the kind of hurt and harm this man is doing simply by not thinking critically about the things he is saying or doing. Perhaps if he had a moment of self-reflection, he could think about something he enjoys about being white.