

JCSCORE

Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity

The Journal of the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education

I DON'T APOLOGIZE

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Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity
Volume 9, Issue 1 | 2023

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The *Journal Committed to Social Change on Race and Ethnicity* (ISSN 2642-2387) is published by the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), a production of the University of Oklahoma, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

I Don't Apologize

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In this poem, the author describes her deep commitment to accepting who she is as a beautiful Black woman. She wants the world to know she will not apologize for who she is and what she looks like. She understands wholeheartedly that her beauty may not meet the criteria of the American standard of beauty. Yet, she refuses to apologize for who she is. This poem is designed to encourage Black women to accept their beauty and to embrace those that are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Hello world, I do not apologize for the skin I am in
I am the blessed one that has been burnt by the sun.
I make no apology for my kinky, curly hair.
I know some folks look at me with that big ugly stare,

And ask, "Girl, what's the matter with your hair?"

And I say, I make no apology for this kinky, curly, nappy head of hair.
You see, what Royal Crown grease did for me was set me free.

I make no apology for my full-blown lips. I say sweet, honey darling, these big lips are better so I can kiss my sugar brown man with.

I make no apology for the sway in my back. If you had chopped and picked a bale of cotton like I did, you would have one too!

I make no apology for my broad shoulders and broad hips and wide nose, and sometimes my crusty little toes.

Yes, I am one of a kind, supremely divine.

Why should I have to apologize to you, you, and you? For who I am, who I am, and where I come from.

I will not apologize for the blackness of my skin, the kinky, curly, or nappy hair, and the sway in my back, wide nose, my thick lips, broad shoulders and my broad hips.

What you see is what you get!

World, I refuse to apologize for being young, gifted, Black, and filled with a whole lot of pride. Now that is a fact!

Why should I have to apologize for the person God almighty has created me to be?

Now, before I let you go, I am going to set you free.

I will not apologize for being me!