

## Student Feedback and Evaluations 5/8/23

What did you learn from Backpack Journalism?

Dwayne Pinder

While we were working on the assignments for Backpack Journalism, I learned how to explain how I really feel about Baltimore and how to impact people with my words. I learned that no matter what age you are, you can impact your country with just words. I learned how to open up to new people and talk about what's on my mind. I learned about speaking on gun violence. The Reginald F. Lewis Museum was very educational to know the past and Loyola was very fun hearing everyone's ideas.

Jamar D Holmes

What I learned about Backpack Journalism is the news is not always going to give you the run. I also learned Baltimore is not a big place and you can turn a corner and you could see a friend or an enemy. Another thing I learned in this Backpack Journalism Program are some things about Loyola. We had to do a project about what life is like in Baltimore and what makes Baltimore my home. These assignments were great, and I wouldn't mind doing them again next year.

Demar Weston

During the Backpack Journalism Program I learned that Baltimore could use a lot of improving and all we need to do is take a stand and speak up about the problems in the city. I also learned that behind all of this negativity that is surrounding Baltimore there is Black joy. One of my peers said that Black joy can be at funerals, parties, anywhere a Black person is can be Black joy because Black people can make sad times, happy and they can make a short time feel like a long time.

Mya'kayla Diakhate

What I learned from the Backpack Journalism Program is that I shouldn't be afraid to express my feelings as a young adult and I should not show any fear. You get to tell your own story from your perspective, and you won't ever be judged. What I achieved from the Backpack Journalism Program is my confidence when I write about my feelings and problems. I'm not nervous to share about how I feel. It's my story and I'm willing to share it with everyone else. My favorite things were going to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, I learned what Black joy could be and what it could look like, I went to Loyola to see another experience at college. I got to show others my concerns about Baltimore City so I can make a change at my age, although my generation made some differences, we can make more differences due to the changes we tried making and still continue to make right now. I have more opportunities for myself to get into because I joined the Backpack Journalism Program and I'm glad that I did because I would still be in my shell not communicating about my dreams and goals for myself as a young adult. I want to be a poet and writer. I appreciate Dr. Kaye for letting me be a part of this program. If others want to join, I will tell them that there's no need to be afraid to express yourself and how you feel and take notes about the program and try and discover new things as you're on this journey. I'm a Junior at City Neighbors High School from Baltimore, Maryland and this is my message.

Nevar Raleigh

My reflection on the Backpack Journalism Program is that it has been very impactful. Throughout our journey, we have done multiple projects like “My life in Baltimore,” a field trip to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, and video projects about “These are my friends” and “What is Black joy?” The Backpack Journalism Program taught me more about speaking on how you feel even though sometimes you feel like you’re not heard and to not to be afraid to want change, be open to change, and want better for yourself and your peers.

Frances Hewitt

Some things I have liked about the Backpack Journalism Program are the trips and learning about new things. I learned how to record on a recorder. I got to learn things about history that I have never known, and I learned how to use a camera. I went to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and recorded many videos about Baltimore.

London Johnson

What I liked about the Backpack Journalism Program is that we went on fun trips to Loyola and to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. We learned about Black history and talked about why it is important to teach it to others.

Carlos Andrade

The most fun project was the Loyola University trip. It was more interesting than other projects throughout the year and was one of my favorites and I hope we have more of these trips. The Backpack Journalism Program was an overall great program. I didn't do much but it was fun.

Gerard Long

Something I have learned for this project is that in the interviews there used to be rec centers for kids, so they were not on the streets. I know that we don't have any or as many because they are no longer a thing. I also learned during the Reginald F. Lewis Museum that trip there was this place called Black Wall Street and it was a thriving Black neighborhood/city but their White neighbors didn't like that so they raided and burned the place down. I also learned that being in a HBCU can help in life because you know more people and have more opportunities.

Traci Surgeon

What I learned during my journey through the Backpack Journalism Program was mainly to speak up. Everyone's opinions are different, but if we speak up and connect through concerns with different issues, we can possibly create a solution. I also learned that we as a community choose to see Baltimore as bad, but really, we're overlooking the good. There's so many good things about Baltimore, but we're blinded by the bad so the good doesn't exist.

Liana McKisset

At first, I did not like the Backpack Journalism Program but once people started to do it and explained more, I grew to like the program and what we did. My favorite thing about the program was the Museum. I love the different things we journaled and hopeful we will be able to do this next year. I journaled about new things and I just all around enjoyed this program and the videos because I got to get out of my comfort zone so I was happy that I was able to do so.

Mileah Price

I liked the questions they asked us about Baltimore and the activities like the field trips. The first thing we had to do was interview our elders and ask them about their life in Baltimore. One of my favorite questions they asked me was “What is one thing I want to change in Baltimore?” I said smoking for one it can kill you and two it stinks. My favorite trip we went on was the trip to Loyola College.

Tyyona Turner

What I like about this group is that we all come together and talk about Baltimore. We go on trips and also do projects about everything that is going on. We learned so much when we went on a trip to the museum and that trip was a very good trip. I am mad that I missed it because museums have a lot of things and information about important things. Whenever somebody needs help or is kind of confused we all tell them or help them. I loved how we did the “My life in Baltimore” project because I wanted people to know what I do. We have Black History Month talks and I get to talk about black history. I love this group and I hope to be in another one.

Dontce Carter

Something I learned during the Backpack Journalism Program is to record our life so where we can look back on it years from now. Something else is that it was funny and we laugh a lot in this program. The projects we did are “My life in Baltimore,” “My favorite places in Baltimore,” etc. It was fun doing this and for people who want to do this, they should. We went to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and we went to Loyola University and stayed there for a little while.

Nyair Raleigh

Some things I learned about in this program was a lot of different things about journalism. I knew about journalism, but I never knew everything that a journalist does. Being in this program taught me how to express my inner thoughts and express my feelings about problems that are going on in society today. Being in this program also taught me how to get over my fear of being in front of the camera and talking into it. This project taught a lot more history and information about Black history that is really important. I know some of the projects that we recorded while being in the program were “What I am concerned about in Baltimore?” “Why is it important to teach Black history?” “What do you think can be done to save Baltimore?” We went on some trips to the Reginald F. Lewis museum, Loyola college, and we interviewed an Elder older than 50 and asked them questions about Baltimore.

Elijah Holmes

What I learned about is Black joy and the depths of how Black people were unified through the worst situations, for example, during slavery and Jim Crow. We also went to a museum called the Reginald F. Lewis museum to learn about sororities and fraternities, the first Black owned barbershop and, just a deep dive into Black history. That trip to the museum was fun especially because I want to join a fraternity in the Divine Nine.