

Mackensi Crenshaw

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English and Education

University of Michigan

Currently Enrolled

M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (Language and Literacy)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

May 2022

Certificate of Specialization: Learning Design and Leadership

Project Title: "Facing history is hard. Facing ourselves is harder": An autoethnographic study of podcasting the Black educational experience"

Advisor: Monica Gonzalez, Ph.D.

B.S. in K-12 Special Education, Secondary Education

Eastern Michigan University

Dec 2019

Minor: Secondary Education Language, Literature, and Writing

Honors Thesis Title: "Critical literacy, engagement, and agency in popular music consumption by young adults"

Advisor: Christopher Robbins, Ph.D.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

High School English Faculty

Francis Parker School of Louisville

July 2023 - June 2026

- Instructor for English II, English IV, and AP African American Studies.
- Designs thematic and topical electives such as Black Music Studies, Oral Literature and Traditions; and Apocalypse Media and Literature.
- Designs and instructs progressive and culturally-sustaining English and literacy curriculum with inclusion of multimodal assessment.
- Supports Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging efforts in curricula, advisory student affinity and ally groups, and community engagement.

Instructional Fellow - Literature and Literacy

Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center

Aug 2022 - June 2023

- Designed, instructed, and supported English courses for high school and early-college aged students focused on analytical writing and reading development.
- Supported creation anti-racist curriculum and programming for youth through use of backward-planning and historically-sustaining curricular design principles.
- Supported out-of-classroom education and experiences in the arts, outdoor adventure, and athletics.

Teaching Assistant/Graduate Instructor**Aug 2021-May 2022***University of Illinois Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction*

- Instructor of record for CI 415: Language Varieties, Culture, and Learning and EDUC 202: Schools, Social Justice, and Society.
- Planned, instructed, and facilitated classes and discussion sections of 25 students online and in-person.
- Supported the reimaging and curricular writing of an online version of CI 415 for future college use.
- Assessed and guided work in multimodal assessments and learning through podcasting and arts integration.

Writing Consultant**Aug 2021-May 2022***University of Illinois Writers' Workshop*

- Supported undergraduate and graduate writers in one-to-one coaching sessions focused on collaborative writing and scaffolded methods of intervention.
- Presented to classes and university programs on library resources and databases online and in-person.
- Provided asynchronous written feedback to various forms of writing such as research papers, dissertations, cover letters, and resumes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**Senior Project Coordinator****August 2024 - June 2026***Francis Parker School of Louisville*

- Supports students in the research process through whole-class instruction, one-on-one coaching, and written feedback.
- Schedules all presentations and maintains communication with relevant stakeholders in the grading process through use of Google platforms.
- Designed and implemented new rubric and scoring guidelines using competency-based praxis and assessment principles.

Freelance Curriculum Contributor**Jan 2024 - Jan 2026***Rock n' Roll Forever Foundation*

- Collaborates on interdisciplinary, free, standards-aligned curriculum that centers music history and culture of Black Americans.
- Lessons created include "The Origins of Disco" and "Motown Records: Detroit's Sound of Success"
- Supports and advocates on behalf of efforts for implementation of multiliteracy practices in classrooms and schools.

Assistant Camp Director**June 2021- Aug 2022***Camp Wyandot Inc.*

- Served on the crisis response team, addressing environmental, medical, and behavioral emergencies, as well as external threats.
- Communicated with parents, community stakeholders, and the press about camp mission, Covid-19 protocols, and value of outdoor education.
- Supervised the training, development, and organization of a staff of 20 to 25, and camper population of 80.

Counselor-In-Training Program Director**June 2018 - Aug 2019***Camp Wyandot Inc.*

- Constructed curriculum for 15–18-year-old students focused on cooperation, social emotional growth, and outdoor education principles.
- Evaluated individual growth and performance of participants through written evaluations.
- Served as first responder to environmental, medical, and behavioral emergencies on camp property.

Presentations

National Council of Teachers of English (presentation). “A Song for You: The Power of Teaching Black Music Studies.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 2026.

Zora! Festival and Academic Conference (panel). “Recording the Folk: Hurston, Storytelling, and Podcasting.” Orlando, Florida, January, 2026.

Independent School Association of the Central States (presentation). “Black Music, Linguistic Justice, and the Possibilities of Sonic Literacy.” Indianapolis, Indiana, November 2025

National Council of Teachers of English (panel presentation). “WOC Preservice Educators Organizing and Creating Space for Preservice Teachers of Color at a PWI”. Virtual, November 2021

Eastern Michigan Undergraduate Symposium (paper presentation) “Practice What You Preach: Social Justice ELA Practices,” Ypsilanti, Michigan, March 2018

Eastern Michigan Undergraduate Symposium (paper presentation) “From Consumption to Resistance: Cultural Pedagogy and Engaging Protest in Popular Music” Ypsilanti, Michigan, March 2017

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Crenshaw, M. (2025). Columns: Black Youth Futures: A Song For You: Black Music as Praxis. *English Journal* 115(1),

CURRICULUM

Crenshaw, M. and Teach Rock (2025). Motown Records: Detroit's sound of success [Lesson Plan]. *Rock and Roll Forever Foundation*.

<https://teachrock.org/lesson/motown-records-detroits-sound-of-success/>

Crenshaw, M. and Teach Rock (2024). The Origins of Disco [Lesson Plan]. *Rock and Roll Forever Foundation*. <https://teachrock.org/lesson/the-origins-of-disco/>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Crenshaw, M. (2026, May 4). Encouraging creativity and deep reflection through annotation. *Edutopia*,

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/encouraging-creative-and-reflective-annotation>

Crenshaw, M. (2026, March 24). Teaching students to synthesize using art and music. *Edutopia*,

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-students-how-synthesize-using-art-music>

Crenshaw, M. (2025, May 27). Podcasting in Louisville to honor orality. *Bread Loaf Teacher Network Journal*, Spring/Summer,

<https://sites.middlebury.edu/bltnmag/2025/05/27/podcasting-in-louisville-to-honor-oralty/>

Crenshaw, M. (2025, March 13). Guiding students to get creative with graphic design tools.

Edutopia. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-students-use-graphic-design-tools>

Crenshaw, M. (2025, February 3). Teaching students about the richness of Black language traditions. *Edutopia*. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/black-history-month-schools>

Crenshaw, M. (2023, August 23). Teaching the long-term value of annotation. *Edutopia*,

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teaching-annotation-high-school>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Rackham Graduate College Merit Fellow	2026
Association for Teaching Black History in Kentucky Grant, Berea College	2025
Teaching, Writing, and Acting for Change Fellow, Middlebury College	2024
Outstanding Masters Student Nominee, Illinois College of Education	2022
Conference Attendance Support Award, Illinois College of Education	2021
Masters Fellow, University of Illinois Graduate College	2020
Madeline and Jack McClow Scholarship, Eastern Michigan University	2019
Marylyn E. Lake Endowed Scholarship, Eastern Michigan University	2017, 2018, 2019
Gold Medallion: Outstanding Volunteerism by an Undergraduate Student, Eastern Michigan University	2018
Eastern Michigan University Presidential Scholar	2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

ISACS Accreditation Steering Committee Member <i>Francis Parker School of Louisville</i>	Aug 2025 - June 2026
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee <i>Francis Parker School of Louisville</i>	Aug 2023 - June 2026
Associate Head of High School Hiring Committee <i>Francis Parker School of Louisville</i>	Jan - March 2025
Illinois Writer's Workshop Consultant Committee <i>University of Illinois Writer's Workshop</i>	Jan - May 2022
Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Undergraduate Rep. <i>Eastern Michigan College of Education</i>	Jan - Dec 2019
COE EdTalks Inaugural Student Conference Committee <i>Eastern Michigan College of Education</i>	Nov 2018 - April 2019
MLK Celebration Committee <i>Eastern Michigan College of Education</i>	Oct 2018 - Jan 2019