THE DISCIPLINE GAP AND THE NORMALIZATION OF FAILURE

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Ray: Ms. Dinkins, man, she just didn't like me.

Interviewer: Why not?

Ray: I mean, I don't want to say nothing about no racial, but when I do say it, it's the truth though, 'cause she ain't ever kicked out no white people. I remember one situation, and I know my partner Jimmy remember it too, wherever he at, but um, [pause] we went up in there, the bell had just rung, right? And we was just outside the door, and the bell had just rung, right? Right. And we, we open the door, come in, and she's like, "You guys you gotta be here when the bell rings, you gotta go to OCS [on-campus suspension]. Go." You know, "Leave." You know, just like that! Right? So we're walking out, and these two white girls, you know, they're supposed to be doing cool up in that class, I guess. I don't know, getting As or whatever they be doing. You know, when they come in the door, the teacher's all, "Hurry up, hurry up, you're about to miss the assignment," you know? I mean, but, man. But, you know, Mr. Jackson [in the on-campus suspension office], he knows what's up, you know?

Interviewer: So what did Mr. Jackson do about it?

Ray: I mean, he didn't even trip, 'cause he know I be up in there every single day—knows what's up, man, so he don't even trip.

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