



# Diversity Gazette

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## Teachable Moments

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As educators, we're always on the lookout for teachable moments in the classroom—those unplanned opportunities that can bring a point home more clearly than any handout or PowerPoint slide.

Parenting is no different. I try to make the most of situations that might help me teach my kids about concepts that defy easy explanation. Here's an example.

My older boys go to a public school in Durham. They take the school bus home in the afternoon, but I usually drop them off in the morning. The bus route for their countywide magnet school is long, and the morning bus pickup would be

almost two hours before the opening bell.

Not long ago, we were on our way to school when we got stuck behind a city bus. As it made its third stop, my son looked up from his phone and groaned, frustrated by the delay. Incidentally, that stop was in front of another high school, and a half-dozen kids disembarked and walked toward the school.

I hate traffic as much as the next person, but I felt like something needed to be said. "Hey," I told him, "as you get your door-to-door ride across the county, maybe be a little more patient. Think about the difference between your commute and theirs before you get frustrated."

Privilege is a charged concept that's hard to explain—especially to kids, perhaps—in a way that doesn't risk creating unproductive guilt or counterproductive resentment. I'm not here to congratulate myself for having it all figured out, but in the absence of a perfect explanation, I try to fall back on attentiveness to the moments that give us opportunities to learn and grow. I may not have handled the situation perfectly, but I'm glad we talked about it. We'll continue the dialogue, one moment at a time.