

ABSTRACT

Student Disengagement: A Senior Comprehensive Secondary School Perspective

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This study sought to understand the perspectives of students who are described as disengaged. The participants comprised six Form 4 students from two senior comprehensive schools in the St. George East Education District in Trinidad and Tobago. Data were collected using a semi-structured interview format, which produced authentic narrative accounts of the type of relationship that each of the participants shared with their respective teachers. A cross-case comparison of the narratives revealed four common themes: 1) supportive relationships, 2) classroom interactions, 3) teacher expectations, and 4) teaching styles. These themes generally revealed how the students responded to and interpreted their personal learning experiences in the classroom and, ultimately, how they perceived their teachers.

Keywords: Senior comprehensive schools; Student attitudes; Secondary school students; Student teacher relationship; Trinidad and Tobago