

Andrea Malkin Brenner, PhD

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<https://www.AMBrenner.com>

With 25 years of experience as a professor and first-year administrator and 5 years as a private consultant, I now travel to speak with high school and college audiences about the challenges of transitioning from high school to college. I'm the creator of the [Talking College™ card decks](#) and co-author of [How to College: What to Know Before You Go \(and When You're There\)](#).

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, 2001

American University, Washington, DC

Dissertation: *"Too White to Teach Race: Student Perceptions of Racial Identity-based Professor Credibility, a Case of Pedagogical Malpractice?"*

MA, Curriculum and Instruction in Higher Education Administration, 1991

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

BA, Sociology and Education, 1990

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President, AMBrenner, LLC

Chester, MD, 2018-present

- Offers talks and workshops for high school and college students, parents, and educators on the challenges related to the transition to college

Founder, Talking College™ card brand

Chester, MD, 2019-present

- Creator of the Talking College™ family of cards, the original discussion prompts and insider tips for college-bound students and their parents/guardians

Fellow, University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

Irvine, CA, and Santa Cruz, CA, 2019-2020

- Engaged in year-long fellowship entitled, "Let Freedom (and Respect) Ring: Fostering Civil Discourse and Free Speech in the Classroom and Beyond" with colleague, Lara Schwartz
- Completed residency at UC Santa Cruz: running multiple workshops for faculty, staff, and students about civil discourse inside and outside of the classroom
- Collected interview and focus group data about civil discourse concerns from faculty, staff and students
- Wrote student-facing discourse guide for 2021 publication

Creator, Curriculum Designer, and Director, The American University Experience (AUx)

Washington, DC, 2015-2018

- Full-time faculty administrator position reporting to Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Created first full-year mandatory hybrid online course for all first-year students at American University
- Served as lead responsible for all daily operations, problem-solving, and continuous improvements necessary for students of diverse backgrounds, academic interests, and learning styles
- Implemented three semester-long pilots before the full roll-out of over 2000 first-year students
- Oversaw each sections' online delivery and grading processes to coordinate uniformity
- Recruited, hired and trained hundreds of AU faculty members, staff, and alumni course Instructors and upper-class students to serve as peer co-facilitators for program
- Wrote fall curriculum about college transition and collaborated on spring curriculum about social inequality, including course goals and weekly learning objectives; selecting on-line material; writing weekly assignments; and providing lesson plans for weekly in-class discussion led by instructors
- Collaborated with offices including Admissions, Academic Deans, Registrar, Residence Life, Academic Support/Access Center, Counseling Center, Athletics, College Writing, and Career Center
- Created surveys and held focus groups for AUx students in conjunction with assessment teams

**Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Faculty Advisor, Sociology Department, American University
Washington, DC, 2001-2016**

- Taught approximately six classes per year:
*US Society; The Rise of Critical Social Thought; Inequality of Race, Class and Gender;
Sociology of Birth and Death; Senior Seminar; Diverse and Changing Families; Sociology of Sport*
- Undergraduate Advisor for all SOCY majors and minors, Department of Sociology, 2009-2016
- Internship Coordinator for all SOCY internships, Department of Sociology, 2009-2016
- Honors Program Coordinator, Department of Sociology, 2009-2016
- Chair, Co-chair and Committee member for doctoral dissertations and master's theses, 2006-2016

**Faculty Director, University College, American University
Washington, DC, May, 2015-2017**

- Directed and oversaw \$300,000.00 budget of AU's oldest and largest living-learning community
- Oversaw 32 faculty members, 32 students teaching assistants, and 600 first-year students
- Worked collaboratively with administrative officers to plan large academic and social events
- Represented the program on university committees; spoke frequently on behalf of the university
- Contributed substantially to faculty search and curricular program decisions

**Adjunct Instructor, Sociology Department, American University
Washington, DC, 1996-2001**

- Classes: *American Society; Inequality of Race, Class and Gender*

**Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Montgomery College
Germantown, MD and Rockville, MD campuses, 1995-1996**

- Classes: *Introduction of Sociology*

**Project Manager, GED Testing Service, The American Council on Education
Washington, DC, 1993-1995**

- Worked with demographic issues of testing population; coordinated special projects and analyzed data related to developing the nation's high school equivalency exam
- Designed test questions for standardized exam in collaboration with academic specialist teams

**Director of Student Activities, Mount Vernon College
Washington, DC, 1991-1993**

- Directed campus-wide student programming inclusive of diversity, alcohol awareness, women's health issues, and leadership development; taught seminars within the Human Development and Sociology curriculum relating to diversity, women in the media, self-esteem, and learning styles

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

See <https://www.ambrenner.com/events> for a complete list of upcoming and past speaking engagements

Talks and workshops for high school and pre-college program audiences

For high school parents and guardians

- Building "Adulting" Skills in High School: It's More than Learning to do Laundry
- Your Changing Role: Preparing to be a Great College Parent
- Your Neurodiverse Teen and the Launch to College
- Tips and Tricks to Make the Most of Your Student's College Tours

For high school students and pre-college program participants

- Building College Skills: It's More than Learning to do Laundry
- Preparing for the Expectations of College Academics
- Thriving, Not Just Surviving, in Your First Year

For high school students and pre-college program faculty and staff

- Preparing Your Students for College Academics
- Helping Students Demystify Critical Thinking Skills for College Learning
- Trends of First-year College Students: How High Schools Can Prepare Them for the New Realities of Campus Living

Talks and workshops for college audiences

For college parents and guardians

- College Parenting 101: From High School Parent to College Parent
- Home for the Holidays: Setting Expectations for Your New College Student's Visit

For college summer bridge program participants

- Building Crucial College Skills: It's More than Learning to do Laundry
- The Real Differences Between High School and College Academics (and How to Prepare)
- Thriving, Not Just Surviving in Your First Year

For staff and faculty working with first-year families and first-year students

- Designing a Hands-on Parent Orientation: Engaging New College Parents Through Education, Networking, and Critical Conversation
- Setting Expectations: Moving from a Parent Management to Parent Education Model
- Supporting Our First-year Students: A Campus-Wide Responsibility

PUBLICATIONS

- [Winter Break: Parenting an "Adult" Who Has Lived Away From Home](#), CampusESP, December 19, 2022
- [Good News, Parents: Lessons to Ease the Transition to College Can be Taught!](#), The College Spy, September 18, 2022
- [Adulting Includes Finding and Using Resources on Campus: How Counselors Can Prime Their Students for Success](#), LINK for Counselors, Fall 2022
- [Is Your Student Ready for College?](#), Collegiate Parent, July 15, 2022
- [College is NOT Just a Bigger High School: Preparing First-Year Students for the Academic Expectations](#), College Scoops, February 18, 2022
- [The Surprising College-level Skills Students Have Learned From the Pandemic](#), co-authored, The Curiosity Vine, February 3, 2022
- [Shattering the Teacup Label: Honing Adulting Competencies and Building Resilience](#), The Curiosity Vine, Jan. 25 2022
- [Talking College™ Card Deck](#), self-published, October, 2021
- [Teaching Life Skills to the Students in Your Practice](#), Applerouth, July 27, 2021
- [The Ten Most Important Pre-college Conversations to Have With Your Teens](#), Grown and Flown, July 21, 2022
- [College Readiness and Academic Self-Advocacy](#), co-authored, Illuminos, April 5, 2021
- [Let Freedom \(and Respect\) Ring: Fostering Civil Discourse and Free Speech in the Classroom and Beyond](#), co-authored, University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, August 7, 2020
- [How to College: What to Do Before You Go \(and When You're There\)](#), co-authored, Saint Martin's Press, April 24, 2019
- [What Parents Should Do to Help Students Prepare for the First Year of College](#), co-authored, The Conversation, April 8, 2019
- [Teach College-Bound Kids about Privilege: It Goes Beyond the Lori Loughlin, Felicity Huffman Scandal](#), co-authored, Salon, March 19, 2019
- [Four Ways College Faculty and Staff Can Help Freshmen Who are Struggling](#), Grown and Flown, October 14, 2019
- [Your Homecoming Is Their "Home-Leaving"- How to Prepare for Your College Freshman's Thanksgiving Visit](#), co-authored, Huff Post, November 17, 2017
- "Understanding Social Location," *Sociology Through Active Learning*, Pine Forge Press, Kathleen McKinney and Barbara S. Heyl, editors, 2009
- "Too White to Teach Race? Student Perceptions of Racial Identity-Based Professor Credibility," Chapter Two in *African Americans and Whites: Changing Relationships on College Campuses*, pp. 19-35, University Press of America, Robert M. Moore, editor, March, 2006
- Resource Book for Teaching Sociological Theory*, Co-editor with Patricia Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge, American Sociological Association, July, 2007
- Resource Book for Teaching the History of Sociology*, Co-editor with Patricia Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge, American Sociological Association, July, 2007
- "A Hands-on Approach to Teaching about Jane Addams," in *Incorporating the Women Founders into Classical Theory Courses: A Resource Book*, edited by Jan E. Thomas, American Sociological Association, 2005
- "Stereotyping and Labeling," "The Symbolic Basis of Culture," "Demonstrating the Sociological Perspective", *Sociology Through Active Learning* and *Sociology Through Active Learning Instructor's Manual*, Pine Forge Press, Kathleen McKinney, Frank D. Beck, Barbara S. Heyl, editors, 2001
- "The Family", *Teaching About Families*, 3rd Edition, American Sociological Association, Winter, 2000

PODCAST APPEARANCES

- [College and Career Clarity Podcast: Teaching Your Teen "How to College"](#), May 31, 2022
- [College Parent Central Podcast](#), Talking College with Transition Expert Dr. Brenner, May 18, 2022
- [First Mentor Podcast: How to Transition from High School to College](#), April 18, 2022
- [How to College with Andrea Malkin Brenner](#), College Scoops Podcast, March 8, 2022
- [You Don't Know What You Don't Know: College Unbound](#) with Focus Collegiate, November, 2021
- [College Insider Tips- Psst!--It's not all academics](#): IEP Essentials Pro Tips, May, 2021
- [How to College. An Interview with Schwartz and Brenner](#), New Books Network, March, 2021
- [The Summer Before College: Expert Interview](#): That College Kid Podcast, November, 2021

PUBLIC MEDIA

- *Synchro: A Documentary Film*, Half Life Media, Featured Sociologist, 2018
- *American University Starting Diversity Classes Following High-profile Racist Incidents*, ABC-7, 2018
- *American University Announces Anti-Racism Plan, Required Diversity Course*, NBC-4, 2018
- *Mandatory Diversity Course Coming to American University Following Racist Incident*, WAMU, 2018
- *Racial Segregation in High Schools*, National Public Radio, Focus Interview with Youth Voices, 2008
- *Teaching About Romance in the Sociology Classroom, Filmed Clip*, Entertainment Tonight, 1997

SIGNIFICANT SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT

In the Community:

- Vice Chair of the Board and Chair of the amb Governance Committee, Board of Directors, Camp Young Judaea, 2020-present
- Member and Chair of Program Evaluation Committee, Board of Trustees, The Barker Adoption Foundation, 2004–2021
- Editorial Review Board, *SOC 2010*, McGraw Hill, 2009-2017
- Reviewer, *Contemporary Sociology*, 2008-2010
- Reviewer, *Race and Society*, 2008-2010
- Member, Board of Trustees, Korean Focus Adoption Organization, 2004-2010
- Founder and Faculty Advisor, CHINGOO Mentoring Group for Korean Adoptees, 2004-2008
- Editorial Advisory Board, *Choices in Marriage and Family*, Collegiate Press, 1998
- President, Capital Association for Women in Education, 1996-1997
- Vice President, Capital Association for Women in Education, 1995-1996

At American University:

- Department Chairs and Program/Division Directors, 2017-2018
- AU Core Committee of the Faculty Senate, 2017-2018
- Marshall and McNair Fellowships Interview Board, Office of Merit Awards, 2004-2006, 2016, and 2018
- Reinventing the Student Experience (RiSE) Faculty Engagement Subcommittee, 2016-2018
- Faculty Representative, 504 Grievance Committee, 2016
- Orientation and Welcome Week Planning Committees, 2016-2018
- AU Honors Program Awards Selection Committee, 2014-2016
- Provost's Committee on AU and Educational Testing Service (ETS) Collaboration, 2015-2017
- Chair and Judge of yearly panels, Robyn Rafferty Matthias Student Research Conference, 2009-2015
- Academic Integrity Code Panels, College of Arts and Sciences, 2012-2017

AWARDS AND HONORS

- *Richard Barker Award*, The Barker Foundation, 2021
- *Cutting-Edge Curriculum Award*, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2018
- *Professor of the Year*, American University Student Government, 2017 and 2004
- *Curriculum Development Award*, Dean of Academic Affairs, American University, 2017
- *Ann Ferren Curriculum Design Award*, Center for Teaching, Research, & Learning, American University, 2016
- *Design Award Challenge Winner*, Reinventing the Student Experience (RiSE) Leadership Retreat, 2016
- *Teaching Enhancement Grant*, Center for Teaching, Research, & Learning, American University, 2012-2015
- *Faculty Award*, American University GLBTA Resource Center, 2009