

Abstract: The Connection Between Androids and African Americans

The topic I went over for my project was how androids are similar to African Americans. The reason why is because it makes things interesting to comparing humans with robots. People may say that it is impossible to compare an android to a human, but when it comes to researching, anything is possible. Even though there are differences between the two, they are still similar because of the challenges they had to face in their lives. Allow me to go over some of the challenges they had to face. On the androids' side, they had to deal with humans who try to not let them be part of society, and not allow them to continue on blending in the human society. Humans think that if androids are enhancing their knowledge of reality experience, they would become more dangerous than they were before. In other words, humans don't really trust androids when they go off alone without their creator supervising them.

As for the African Americans, they had to deal with society itself. In the history of the African Americans, there were a lot of challenges that they had to face. Some African Americans had dealt with slave owners when they were slaves back then. While other African Americans dealt with segregation. It only takes a lot of guts, including famous black leaders to support the African Americans, to fight back. Without the black leaders supporting them, black people would still be slaves and segregation would still have continued. Through the years of how African Americans survived, it may have been a miracle for them. In other words, African Americans would rather keep themselves alive and let time take its course. They wanted to see whether or not there would be some changes in the society or that society would just remain the same. These details show that even though the androids' and African Americans' challenges are different, they still had dealt with the same problem. And that problem is none other than society. It may be possible that androids are like imageries that are representing to the African Americans. When scholars learned about the African Americans and they started reading about the androids, they would know that androids are like African Americans.

Dear Professor Belli,

So far, this will be the last cover letter that I will be submitting in this course. All I can say is that time flies when you work really hard at college. This has been such an experience of learning new things in Science Fiction. Especially knowing how to write an essay in Science Fiction. I been having some challenges from the past two assignments, but as you, Professor, explained to me how to properly write an essay, it became a little clearer.

The first assignment, which was writing an argumentative essay about the first text we read “Brave New World”, was very difficult to me. I didn’t understand what I was supposed to do in the first assignment. For example, I couldn’t tell on what kind of argumentative essay I was supposed to write. I was confused at the point where I was told that the people who were savages and the people who were using technology were both in the present time. I thought that they were both at a different time line because of the setting they were in. It was unfortunate that I misread of who they are. But then, as I began to do the second assignment, which was writing another argumentative essay about the second text we read “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep”, it was easier to understand because I went to Student Support Services and I have been scheduling meetings with the professor for assistance. With the support of the tutor from Student Support Services and the Professor, my second assignment was better than my first assignment. They helped me out on how to really write an argumentative essay and what kind of details I was supposed to put in order. So, I like to thank both of them for helping me out with my second essay.

Currently, I have been working on the topic of how Androids are similar to African Americans in my project. This topic was more interesting than the other topics I had thought of back with the project proposals. In all honesty, it was difficult to try to come up with a topic that is related to Science Fiction and explain how the topic is connected to Science Fiction. For example, when I started to come up with my first topic, I had find details to support it. But when I found some and couldn’t find anymore, the topic then didn’t work out for me and I had to think of another topic. As I pick another topic, I gotten through the same problem as the first proposal and had to think of another topic again. That is how I ended up with this topic that I am working on right now. Getting back to my topic for today, I have been reading a book and read some articles that was involved with Androids. I also looked over a couple of films and articles that described the history of African Americans. Not only did I had to find some sources to support my topic, but the tutor from student support services helped me prepared my essay. The tutor that I met with was very supportful with researching and putting my list of details in order when I started writing my essay just like my second essay. I also met up with the Professor who helped me with the topic selection. She also helped me on what I was supposed to write in the OpenLab blog whenever I include my sources to support my topic

I have presently finished the first draft of my project. Now I am at the point of waiting for the other two students to submit their essays and start peer reviewing. Finally, when the students, who are part of my peer review group, gives me feedback, I can finalize my project and I will be done with this course.

From,

Duron Crichlow

Duron Crichlow
Write-Up
Professor Belli
11/18/16

The Connection Between Androids and African Americans

In the real world, African Americans had a tough time being accepted into society. They had to go through many challenges society presented to them. As for the readers who started reading about the androids, they would know that they have emotions and readers are starting to feel bad of what kind of challenges the androids had to face. Which brings up an interesting question for scholars and readers, “Can Androids be similar to African Americans?” The answer is yes because they both had their challenges against society. Also, African American experience is similar to androids because of the fear from society, the violence they dealt with, and the strength and determination to move forward.

The first reason African Americans and androids are similar to each other is because they fear from society. When androids and African Americans fear from society, it is because they get judged the wrong way. When it comes to society judging them quickly, they have no experience. This means society has no understanding about the lives of androids and African Americans. In the lives of African Americans, society does not even know about who the black people are and why they exist. It does not matter to society as they would not support them and just treat them like garbage. For example, slave owners did not give slaves any education because they did not really care about them. Except for Fredrick Douglas, who was an African-American social reformer and abolitionist, and he “secretly started to learn how to read and write by himself” (History.com). This means that slaves weren’t given any learning experience, but instead was giving punishment to them to experience fear. Also, there was no respect for African Americans

back when Jim Crow Laws were in effect, which was the segregation between black people and white people back when it started in 1877. In the Jim Crow Laws, white people never knew much about the black people and they did not care why they existed. The only thing they cared about was being happy, and that there was segregation. They were also concerned about being treated fairly, while the black people were treated unfairly. There was an article that was written by the Ferris State University and it states that “The goal of the white rioters, as was true of white lynchers of single victims, was to instill fear and terror into blacks, thereby buttressing white domination” (Boskin). This shows white people wanted to inject black people with fear to deal with them. As for the androids, humans had no experience with them because they always say that androids were a bunch of machines and tools, nothing else. For example, in the text *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, humans had never thought that androids are like children and that they need to learn the experience of reality. Like how an android named Pris was shown a spider. She saw that it has 8 legs, she stated that she thought “It doesn’t need all those legs” (Dick 206). Then she got a pair of scissors and cuts off 4 of its legs. This shows that androids had not really experienced anything in the real world and people were just giving them fear by hunting them down.

Another reason why society judges the androids and African Americans quickly is because they have been making assumptions about them. The society will always jump to conclusions even though they have no knowledge about them. In the androids’ lives, the humans would call them murderers whenever they are, as the humans claimed, out of control. For example, in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, when the androids were doing their jobs at a colonization in Mars, they escaped. That made the humans in fear and made them think that if androids were in human society for so long, they would become dangerous as ever. Someone

like a human named Phil Resch stated that the androids are “murderous illegal aliens” (Dick 136). Even though the androids got to their planet without permission, they just don’t ask questions and just automatically claim that they’re dangerous. For the African Americans, the white people always assumed that black people were dangerous because of the way how they look and their color. For example, in the Jim Crow Laws, one of the laws stated that “A black male could not offer his hand or any other part of his body to a white woman, because he risked being accused of rape” (Costly). Now if a black man is trying to help a white woman out by giving her a massage, for instance, then, for no reason, they would accuse him for the crime of rape. White people need to know that they can’t claim that black people will do awful things to the whites just because of their color.

The next reason why society fears and judges the androids and African Americans is because society lacks trusting and understanding them. Certain times, when society looks at the androids and African Americans for the first time and only knows them a little, they would not be able to fully understand them; therefore, they would not trust them. On the side of the androids, humans did not really trust them because androids are robots, and they know when it comes to machines, things can go wrong. Unfortunately, humans don’t fully understand what kind of emotions androids have. In an article written by Torie Bosch, a graduate student at the University of Dallas, Bosch discussed the Uncanny Valley, which states, “That as machines look more realistic, they become more unsettling.” This shows that when people realize that androids are becoming more like humans, they can be dangerous to them. The only problem with that is people don’t really know if they are going to be more dangerous when they become more human like. Maybe if humans would let them be and fully trust the androids, they would then know that androids can be helpful to the humans and never have any problems with them.

The next reason how androids and African Americans are similar to each other is the violence they had experienced from the society. Whenever society uses violence against androids and African Americans, they use certain people to do wrongdoings against them called perpetrators. In the lives of African Americans, society used a certain number of perpetrators to put them in their places. For example, slave owners used certain weapons like knives, guns, field tools and nearby objects to torture and punish the slaves whenever they do something that betrays the slave owners' orders. There was one slave that said "The only punishment that I ever heard or knew of being administered slaves was whipping" (@VoiceOfTruthUSA). Another example is when black people dealt with the KKK, the Ku Klux Klan, back in the Jim Crow days, who were "using venom and violence to keep the blacks 'in their place'" (Costly). Also, the white people were perpetrators as well because during the civil rights movement, the police used "high-powered hoses and sicced snarling dogs on black men, women and even children who wanted just one thing — to be treated the same as white Americans" (Siemaszko). These details show that the perpetrators were happy to use violence against black people if they didn't really care about them at all. As for the androids, they had to deal with two perpetrators that are only doing this for the safety of humanization. In *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, Phil Resch killed an android named Luba Luft in a fit of rage. As he and Rick Deckard tried to keep her alive, he fired his laser at her and it "burrowed a narrow hole, silently, into her stomach" (Dick 134). This shows that instead of keeping her alive for possible interrogation, Phil just goes for the aggressive way by killing her.

Another reason why society used violence against the androids and African Americans is because it was their way of eliminating their existence. On the androids' side, people had always said that they are robots and are nothing like humans and that they shouldn't be part of the

society. For example, back in the article, when the student stated about the Uncanny Valley, it also said that when an android is becoming more real than ever, then the androids should have “No basis in reality” (Bosch). Which means humans would give the androids who are starting to be like humans no support in the real world. For the African Americans, society had to use violence on them because of the population of black people. For example, in the film *Blood Diamond* there was a scene when the slave owners arrive and force the slaves to place their hands onto a log so that they can cut both of their hands. They do that because they enjoyed it and it was for their special needs and the slave owners did not need that many slaves in their society.

Whenever African Americans and androids have to deal with society, when they used violence against them, they had no choice but to use self-defense. The reason why they used self-defense is because they had to defend their lives as they kept on moving forward, which is why society can be a bully to the androids and African Americans. For the androids, they had no intention of killing a single living organism, especially a human. But they will still hunt down the androids no matter what, so they had no choice to fight back. For example, in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, Roy had to set up traps to stop Rick Deckard from killing him. He stated that he “rigged up an alarm system” (Dick 157) so that he can protect himself from Rick Deckard. This shows an android is doing its best to protect himself from not getting killed. As for the African Americans, they had to rebel whenever society gave them unfair rights and started torturing them. For example, in the film *Selma*, there was a scene where black people go to bar and they were sitting to the bartender and white people were demanding them to get out. But no matter how many times they did their ways of making them get out, black people just

kept on fighting back. This shows that black people have their power of defending themselves by standing up to the white people.

The final reason of how androids and African Americans are similar to each other is that they both have the spirit of determination. This means both never gave up on what they wanted to do in their lives. When it comes to androids and African Americans having determination, it is when they had certain people who supported them. Having supporters means that they will defend and will help them get through life. On the side of the androids, some humans say that they are robots and that they should not be part of the society. While other humans say that they are like humans and they can be a benefit to the society. For example, in an article, it talks about a Sci-Fi TV series and it explains on how it breaks the Science Fiction mold about the androids. The TV series is called *Humans*, and it explains how a character named Dr. David Elster who created the androids want them to be like humans. It states that he gave them consciousness and that he wanted them to “experience emotions right off the bat, as well as machines that learned in the same way that human children learn: through experience” (Burks). This shows the creator has faith into the androids for joining the society. He knows that if he created the androids in the correct way, humans won’t have to worry about them. In the African Americans’ side, they had famous black people that wanted to end both slavery and segregation. For example, Fredrick Douglas was one of the famous African American supporters who had done many things to abolish slavery. In the article “Fredrick Douglas”, it states that “In thousands of speeches and editorials he levied an irresistible indictment against slavery and racism, provided an indomitable voice of hope for his people, embraced antislavery politics, and preached his own brand of American ideals” (History.com). This shows how Fredrick Douglas used his experience of reading and writing to help the slaves get their freedom.

Androids and African Americans both have determination of achieving their goal. If they want to achieve that, they have to use certain form of strategy. For the androids, when they arrived into the society, they never stop until they can achieve their goal which is joining human society. For example, Roy, his wife Iris, and Pris had been searching around in the city trying to get some answers of what empathy is, so that they can understand it to join with the humans. As for the African Americans, their goal was to make sure that they are treated like citizens in society. For example, black people had never given up into removing the Jim Crow Laws and have equal rights with the white people. Every time African Americans had to dealt with white people and their blockade of removing segregation, they never stop until their goal had been achieved.

In conclusion, from all the reasons that are covered, it can be surprising that African Americans who are humans can be similar to androids who are robots. Their lives may be different, and so are their goals, but what makes them the same is their personality and the challenges they had gone through. If there is one thing how we can tell androids can be similar to African Americans, is that we can feel their emotions!

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