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3/28/19

Final Draft: Racism in America

It all started with one black teen, Treyshawn Jones, and a white kid, Adam Wellington in a North Carolina High School. It was at first a battle of racial slurs, until it turned violent. Police officers rushed into the school lunchroom in minutes, and Jones was tased, beaten up bloody, and sat in agony, lying down in pain. He had a black eye and a broken jaw. The Police Officers did nothing to Adam, except a small warning. Both kids were equally at fault, the other students argued afterwards. Why was Jones the one targeted by police? The question remains. But first, let’s turn to this country as a whole. America was founded on culture, race, and religion. To damage that, you might ask, would be extremely detrimental to our freedom and democracy. So we fight. We fight for justice and fair treatment. We fight day by day to combat the monster of society: racism, in order to guarantee a fair treatment for all minorities.

Let’s continue with the Rhetorical Article: “White Police Officers beats Black Teen in High School”. This, just from the title alone, was meant to attract attention and controversy. Knowing BuzzFeed, they are typically into these type of provoking articles. At first, nobody knows who started the fight. Did the officer overreach into police brutality? Or was the black teen at fault for being uncooperative with the police officer? Was the officer under his boundary for arresting the kid with such force? The question remains unanswered. Based on the article, the setting took place in a lunchroom. The incident involved punching and kicking. It seems as though the Black teen was just minding his own business until the white kid yelled racial slurs at him.

I think that both the police officer and the teens are at fault. Why, some may ask? Although the teen was wrong for starting the fight, the police officer was also in the wrong for hospitalizing the teen. It should take no more than 3 police officers to quickly restrain the teen. The result is? This black teen ended up having surgery, including broken jaw, blackened eye, along with FELONY jail time. If you think this is it, you are mistaken. This argument is not only about the black teen and the police officers, it is about the fact how a white teen would have been treated differently compared to this black teen. This is why the community argued the police’s actions were unjust for the teen.

Many arguments can be heard; including Robert Miller, BuzzFeed editor and analysis writer. “White teens could’ve gotten way scot-free: peacefully cuffed and given a low fine instead. Black people on average receive more punishment for crimes committed. My stance on this is -the judges are often biased towards whites compared to blacks on sentencing and parole. This is undoubtedly targeted racism and discrimination.” Many want to know, what happens to this kid in prison? Well, definitely not a good time. Even though he is eligible for parole in a few years, he might have a mental breakdown in prison. Gen pop (short for general population) is rather brutal. This teen, aged 17, will get assaulted by gang members and criminals who committed much worse crimes like MURDER and RAPE. My third claim is, this black teen who fought a kid in high school out of adrenaline and anger is getting put with murderers and rapists.

My stance on the article is: I don’t agree with the black teen’s treatment. He deserves a good defense lawyer who will protect his rights, based on the constitution. He should be charged maximum, with a suspension, not jail time. Most importantly, his race shouldn’t be a factor. Black men might look intimidating to some people, but that doesn’t mean he is worse than a white man who done the same crime. This should also apply to Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindis, etc. It should also apply equally for men and woman. Law enforcement officers should have to endure special training and weapon safety. Tasers and Guns should never be used on High School students, even if they assault someone. Let the school decide the punishment. In order to guarantee equal rights, we should fight for justice and reform in our democratic society.