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## **U2 Annotated Bibliography**

Police brutality is when officers use excessive and unnecessary force against a civilian. For the past ten years we have seen police brutality increase especially within the last year. Case after case has been documented and shared across the media for the world to see. It has caused the world to explode in protests and riots to demand justice for the lives that were lost unfairly and tragically. Majority of these cases associate with black Americans. Since many of the officers involved with in these cases are white, it brings up the question of why is such force used towards specifically black Americans? What are the effects of this on black Americans as well? When somebody is racist it means that they distinguish others as different to them based on where they are from. This also counts as discrimination, when you treat someone different based on their gender, skin tone, or cultural background. Since majority of these brutality cases involve a white officer against a black civilian, it brings up the concern of the police force being racially biased. When you compare cases like these against cases of white officers handling white civilians you can see a major difference. Therefore, the cause of such violence towards black Americans can be because of the police force being racially biased and the effect it has on black Americans is that it creates a divide and tension within their community and the police community.

In the year 2020 the world has seen a tragic case on fold on camera and had caused people everywhere to protest and demand justice. This case was the George Floyd case. George Floyd was a 46-year-old black man who was murdered during an interaction with a white officer. This event happened in Minneapolis Minnesota on May 25th, 2020. The owner of a grocery store had called the police with a report of Floyd using counterfeit bills. When police arrived at the scene, they told Floyd to get out of his vehicle. As cops put Floyd into the police car, he notified them that he was claustrophobic and asked politely if they can crack the window open. Four officers are now on the scene and yank Floyd out of the vehicle and lay him on the ground. At this point one of the officers kneels on to his neck causing him to have a breathing difficulty. Floyd lets the officers know that he cannot breathe and while officers still use excessive and unnecessary force Floyd yells out his love for his kids and family as if he knew this situation was not going to end well and it didn't end well. For 8 minutes and 46 seconds the officer stayed kneeling against his neck eventually causing Floyd to pass away.

**Citation #1:**

The New York Times. "How George Floyd Died, and What Happened Next". 1, Nov.2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/article/george-floyd.html>

**Summary:**

The text implies the events that took place and the time frame of when Floyd was on the ground. It states that 3 officers are involved in this interaction with Floyd and are pinning him on the ground with Officer Chauvin kneeling onto his neck. Floyd repeatedly states that he is unable to breathe, and Chauvin continues to kneel onto his neck for 9 minutes. During the 6-minute

mark, bystanders yell at the officers to stop. Another officer checks for a pulse on Floyd and fails to find it. Despite this they continue to hold down Floyd. 2 minutes after this, paramedics arrive and take him to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

**Reflection:**

It is truly heartbreaking not only to read about this case but to watch the video evidence and see the clear struggle that Floyd was going through in hopes that the officers will get off him. This case is so important because it shows how Floyd did not express resistance while being pinned down. he had to repeatedly state that he could not breathe but the three officers still decided to pin this one man down. Some questions that arise while watching everything go down are why didn't they work with Floyd when he first expressed concerns and difficulty of breathing? Why are there three officers holding down this one man who is not resisting at all? Why did it take so long to hold him down and was all that aggression necessary to begin with? When the world saw this case unfold the obvious was pointed out. These officers were being unnecessarily violent towards this black civilian. It was totally unnecessary, and it makes it more aggravating to hear and read about because we see the clear struggle that Floyd is going through to the point where he expresses his love for his family and kids because he knew it wasn't going to end well for him. We don't usually see this happen with an interaction with a white civilian. So, this has caused a major issue of deep white police officers in the police force being racist. The affect that this had on not only the black community, but all communities was to protest for Black Lives Matter, and this eventually led to riots as well.

**Quotation:**

“Three officers pin Mr. Floyd facedown — Mr. Chauvin kneeling on his neck, Mr. Kueng kneeling on his upper legs and holding his wrist, and Mr. Lane holding Mr. Floyd’s legs. (Mr. Thao was keeping bystanders away.) Mr. Floyd began saying repeatedly that he could not breathe. Mr. Chauvin kept his knee on Mr. Floyd’s neck for nine and a half minutes. Six minutes after the officers put Mr. Floyd facedown, and only after bystanders shouted at them to attend to him, Mr. Kueng checks for Mr. Floyd’s pulse and says he cannot feel it. All three of the officers continue to hold Mr. Floyd in a position that restricts his breathing. Two minutes later, emergency responders arrive, and the medics load him into an ambulance. He was pronounced dead that night.”

The Black Lives Matter movement is a social movement which protests the racially motivated violence and police brutality against black people. The George Floyd case wasn’t the only case that led to protesting. Other cases that ended in tragic and unfair deaths of black people such as to name a few Breonna Taylor, Michael Brown, and Trayvon Martin all lead to an outburst of protest. Within these protests and rise of the community against the police force, we sense and see a clear tension and a division between these two communities. This has been happening for such a long time and is only seeming to get worse overtime. The death of George Floyd has caused people’s anger and frustration towards the police force at an all-time high and that is clearly demonstrated within the protests and riots that occurred in the year 2020.

**Citation #2:**

Great Big Story, YouTube. "Black Lives Matter Protests Around the World" 13, June. 2020.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V14I0weXPU&ab\\_channel=GreatBigStory](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V14I0weXPU&ab_channel=GreatBigStory)

**Summary:**

YouTube video titled "Black Lives Matter Protests Around the World" by channel Great Big Story puts a video up of clips from protests all around the nation for Black Lives Matter. In their description for the video, they name a few of many of the lives lost unfairly in the hands of police officers. It also describes the feelings you get at these protests. These protests are the push towards change.

**Reflection:**

Looking back at all the videos, stories and encounters that people have had during these protests just goes to show how big of an issue this is within our society. You see the public coming together as a whole from all different races, all different genders, all ages coming together and uniting as one to go against a clear injustice demonstrated within the system and between the community of officers towards black people. What I love about this video is that it shows you how all age groups come together as well. We are all supposed to educate ourselves on this issue and take action because it is the only way that change can truly happen is when we are heard. The video also clearly depicts the tension between the officers at the protest and the people there as well. There have also been cases in protests where police have acted violently towards them such as throwing teargas at them or pepper spraying them just to get out of the

way. But this only causes more tension to build up within these two communities. And it's very frustrating because you don't see the same treatment between officers and white civilians.

**Quotation:**

“Protesters of all ages, all races, all backgrounds are showing up a Black Lives Matter protests out of love for their fellow human beings. Out of love for George Floyd. Out of love for Breonna Taylor. Out of love for all of the black people who have lost their lives because of the color of their skin. You can feel this love when you attend a protest. You can see it on the faces of the people all around you. You can hear it in their voices. Sometimes, it flows through the mass of people like a quiet undercurrent. Sometimes, it's downright joyful. No matter how it's expressed, it's always potent, always powerful, and it's going to change the world for the better. From NYC to Philadelphia, from Amsterdam to Paris, this is what it is like to attend Black Lives Matter protests.”

It is clear to the public that the violence towards black people from police officers is most of the time about their race. Studies and statistics have shown the high number of arrests and violence towards black people rather than white people. Here is an infographic study of the number of fatal shootings from 2015 to 2021.

**Citation #3:**

Washington Post. “Rate of fatal police shootings in the United States from 2015 to October 2021, by ethnicity (per million of the population)” 2021, October.

<https://www-statista-com.citytech.ezproxy.cuny.edu/statistics/1123070/police-shootings-rate-ethnicity-us/>

**Summary:**

The infographic demonstrates the rate of fatal police shootings in the U.S. between multiple races. These races include Blacks, Hispanics, Whites, and other. The rate is also shown per million of the population

**Reflection:**

Based on these statistics we clearly see a high percentage of people specifically black people who are targeted the most rather than the other races. You can see a massive difference between the number in black fatal shootings which is 37 million and the white fatal shootings which is 15 million. The question comes up of why is there such a big gap? Why is it that black people have the highest number out of all these races? Keep in mind this is also within a period of six years from 2015 to October 2021.

**Quotation:**

“The rate of fatal police shootings in the United States shows large differences based on ethnicity. Among Black Americans, the rate of fatal police shootings between 2015 and October 2021 stood at 37 per million of the population, while for White Americans, the rate stood at 15 fatal police shootings per million of the population.”

After doing such intense and deep research on this topic it made me recognize that it's ridiculous how real this all is. It is so sad to watch videos of all these people getting violently tossed around as if they're worth nothing. Tons of emotions came up while reading people's stories and their encounters with certain officers and it truly broke my heart to know that our nation is probably not moving in the right direction and in the direction, it should be moving in. It is amazing to know that my generation and the generations after me are fighting and will continue to fight to fix this serious issue that we have had going on for such a long time.

Racism is something that has been going on for such a long period of time and even after major events such as the civil rights movement and the fight for equality for blacks, is still seems as if racism still occurs today. Although it's not as such a high in violent extent as it was years ago, it is still violently shown daily. It is still violently shown from a community of people who we are supposed to feel safe around. It is such an important topic to dwell on especially for the black community because they truly fear that they'll lose their life to the people who are supposed to be heroes of our society. Police brutality is an ongoing issue that we must continue to fight against to protect the people that we love.