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Unit 2: Writing Assignment

Police Brutality

The United States' citizens have the right to fair treatment and access to justice. There is an established framework that requires the lawbreakers to be arraigned in court and charged fairly. However, the recent developments of police brutality present a challenge and changes in the perception of the policing and crime management operations in the country. Police brutality can be defined as the unlawful use of power by the police against the citizens; this ranges from beating, assault, and murder. The brutality extends from the physical injury caused by the police to the psychological harm caused by intimidation tactics. The approaches used by the state agents have the capability of stimulating paranoia and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among the victims. Police brutality has been in existence for years, with the past instances stimulated by political and legal system's approval.

It is clear that police brutality has numerous impacts on society. This leads to the desire to evaluate and determine both the positive and negative impacts of police brutality. This is an interesting focus since it avoids the risk of bias. The study attempts to explore whether the brutality can lead to any positive outcomes in society as well as highlight the possible negative outcomes of brutality. Different studies have highlighted the health impacts of brutality. The issue is also surrounded by various racial allegations, with African Americans being the most affected population. It becomes necessary to explore the racial and cultural influences of police

brutality. According to Ang, the law enforcement officers in the US kill an estimate of 1000 citizens annually. Among the Hispanics and African-Americans shot dead by the officers, 40% are not armed. Due to this underlying challenge, this study aims at determining the racial angles of police brutality and the associated impacts on the victims and society.

Graham, Amanda, et al. "Race and Worrying About Police Brutality: The Hidden Injuries of Minority Status in America." *Victims & Offenders* (2020): 1-25.

The authors begin by highlighting how the black community has been a victim of police brutality in the United States. The policing officers are categorized into two; those working democratically and those working like officers in a foreign nation. Despite the troubling and worrying nature of police brutality, the occasions have escalated to the killing of unarmed African-Americans. The killings of Walter Scott and Michael Brown are perfect examples of police brutality in the United States. The current relationship between the communities of color and police has been in existence for years; this has shaped the advice given to the black children by parents, expectations, and perceptions towards the police hence the sour relationship between the two parties. The study reveals that 69.4% of the blacks fear that they might be victims of police brutality at any time (Graham et al.). The fear of brutality among whites is almost four times less than the fear of experiencing a mass shooting, house break-in, and violent crime. I agree with the authors that racial profiling in police brutality negatively affects the black community members than the whites. The authors use a credible process of presenting the evidence. They quote several instances related to the killing of African-Americans who were unarmed hence proving that police brutality has been more on the blacks. The study focuses on all the races while evaluating the psychological impact of brutality. The authors indicate that "70.6% felt the shooting of unarmed Black men by police was likely to increase due to the

election of President Trump” (Graham et al. 563). This indicates that worry levels among African Americans about police brutality would increase with time. This is perceived as a source of mental injury among the community members since they are always fearful that they may be shot dead by police. This can also prevent them from seeking federal services due to fear of discrimination. This study article provides information on the racially aligned impacts of police brutality. Sandoiu Ana. “Police violence: Physical and mental health impacts on Black Americans.” Medical News Today, (2020).

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/police-violence-physical-and-mental-health-impacts-on-black-americans>

The Black Lives Matter movement has led to an increased focus on the issues of police brutality among African Americans in the United States. The instances of police brutality are associated with physical and mental health implications. Sandoiu confirms that among 1000 African American men, one is killed through police brutality annually. Men are at a high risk of being killed by security officers than women of all races. Sandoiu informs that, “American Indian/Alaska Native men were 1.2 to 1.7 times more likely to be killed by police than white men, and American Indian women were anywhere between 1.1 and 2.1 times more likely to be killed by police than white women.” Through the focus on data published in CDC, police brutality is among the leading causes of death in the black community. The impacts associated with these instances of police brutality makes the issue a special focus on public health. The brutality can lead to physical injuries hence causing the requirement for hospitalization. The fear of police brutality experienced by the black community members can lead to the development of complicated mental disorders: the author points out anxiety, trauma, fear of police encounter, and

hopelessness as stressors. The exposure to news of police killings can lead to acute stress and depression.

The information contained in the news article is credible. This is because it has been published by a well-established editor in a reputable news outlet. The article was fact-checked before being published. The quoting of different instances and studies published has made the article more credible and effective in delivering the desired message. The genre allows for high convincing power hence the effectiveness in communicating. I agree with the information that police brutality leads to several stressors such as hopelessness and worry of brutality, which can develop into advanced mental disorders. This source is useful in answering the question regarding medical and mental health issues surrounding police brutality.

Williams, Kristian. *Our enemies in blue: Police and power in America*. AK Press, 2015. Williams begins by calling for considerate thinking without focusing on what the police claim to be doing but rather what they do. Police brutality is in terms of violence, political repression, corruption, and intolerance. Oscar Grant was killed while lying on the face and handcuffed; this is subject to the video recorded by the witnesses from several angles. Despite the demonstrations against police brutality, these incidences are continually being reported in the current society. In 2010, Keaton Otis, a young African American, was murdered by the police because he seemed a gangster to them. The existing cases of police brutality indicate that the police act beyond their authority, which might affect the community's anger. The people of color have also been arrested for small violations. Williams believes that the police have borrowed much of their strategies from the colonial powers. Due to unfair treatment by the police, many have been incarcerated, and others die for no good cause.

The author's writing style makes the arguments credible and trustworthy. The arguments about police brutality are based on historical data. The data shows that the people of color have been the victims of police brutality, including unfair incarcerations and killings. The author alludes, "Blacks are still overrepresented, making up 72.9 percent of arrests but (according to drug user surveys) 49.4 percent of dealers." Williams identifies several instances of brutality, their cause, and the impact on society and individuals. Most police brutality instances have led to demonstrations that interfere with financial performance as well as leading to death and injury of others. Due to this, I agree with the text that brutality has been highly targeting people of color; it has also led to death and injuries. There is a need to study the health impacts of police brutality both in terms of physical and mental health to better understand the content of this book. The genre of the source has been effective in delivering the message. The author uses pronouns that assist in communicating to the audience at a personal level. This source answers the research question by evaluating the race aspect and impacts of police brutality in the US.

Through the research, I was able to develop several findings related to police brutality. Police brutality can be perceived through acts of injustice, such as intimidations, killings, unlawful arrests, and beating. The focus on the past actions of brutality indicates that most of the victims who have ended dead were not armed; hence the police did not need to use lethal force. Williams has informed on several aspects of police brutality in the United States while addressing the racial disparity. For instance, in 1988, black people were 68% more likely to be searched by the traffic police than whites. This disparity still exists since the black has been the target of all criminal investigations. African Americans have been beaten and murdered because of being suspected criminals. The research has also confirmed that blacks express higher rates of falling victims to police brutality than whites. This continuous state of fear among the people of

color in the US places mental health risks. Police brutality has been the leading cause of death among African Americans; it has also caused other impacts such as injuries, hospital admissions, and mental disorders. This kind of brutality leads to mental stressors such as trauma, fear of police encounters, and hopelessness.

I have learned about the potential causes of police brutality towards people of color. The police have had a history of poor relationships with the blacks since the slavery and civil rights movement era. I have also been able to understand the extent to which police brutality affects society, individuals, and the economy. It provokes demonstrations that lead to stagnation of financial activities. I was surprised by the extent to which police brutality has been biased towards one race and gender. This raises the question of whether black men are the only people engaging in crime. I was also surprised by the rate of police killings. The primary audience of this research is the policy developers and the security department. The policy developers need to develop policies that would lead to the adoption of legal action against the officers engaging in police brutality. The security department also needs to lay down a framework that would lead the security officer in acting ethically and without racial discrimination. The two audience members have the ability to handle police brutality.

Works Cited

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