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ENG 1211

Unit 2 Writing Assignment

Introduction:

For all, the constitutional rights and liberties enshrined in the Constitution are fundamental. There is no question that all people (black, Latinos, Indians or white) were created free and equal with certain inalienable rights. This is a universally accepted principle. Segregation and racism of the people of color in the United States has always been a subject of discussion for decades, perhaps centuries where different figures have called on the people to fight and seek for equality. This is the genesis of the question as to whether black lives matter. However different people have had different opinions concerning the issue, and this has compelled different groups to address the issue through various means such as debates and protests. When black people started seeking justice and fair treatment, they were not against police but the brutality and the excessive violence that the police used against the black people and singled them out based on their race. Other than the unfair treatment that the black people received, they were also seeking a balance of power. According to observers, there are more than twice as many unarmed Black people killed by the police compared to White people. Black people are more likely to be deprived of their rights by the law enforcement compared to the white people and this, according to studies, is not by accident but by design. Which begs the question, does the lives of the black people matter as much as those of any other? After the killings of Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Kimani Gray, and many others who were black, people started to consider the vulnerability of the black people in public spaces and doubted the legitimacy of the police force used. The black people feared for their lives and no longer felt safe walking in the street.

Source Entries :

Citation : Garza, Alicia. "A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement by Alicia Garza." *Alicia Garza*, 2013, thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2.

Summary: Black Lives Matter is a remarkable contribution that reaches beyond policing and vigilantes' extrajudicial massacres of Black people. It goes beyond the narrow nationalism that can be common in some Black cultures, which essentially call for Black people to love Black, live Black and purchase Black, hold Black men straight at the front of the campaign, while our mothers, queer and trans and disabled folk take for background positions or not at all. Black Lives Matter affirms the lives of the gender continuum of Black queer and trans people, disabled people, Black-undocumented folks, registered folks, women, and other Black lives. It reflects on

those who became oppressed within the struggles of Black liberation. (Re)building the Black independence movement is a strategy.

Reflection: I am concerned about the ways in which Black people are robbed of our fundamental human rights and equality as we say Black Lives Matter. It is an acknowledgment of black poverty and state brutality is genocide. It is an admission that “1 million Black people in this country are trapped in cages-one-half of all people in jails or prisons-is an act of state brutality”. It is a recognition that the responsibility of a relentless attack on our children and our families continues to be carried by black women, and that the attack is an act of state brutality. In a hetero-patriarchal culture that disposes of us like trash and at the same time fetichizes us and benefits off us, black queer and trans people bearing a particular responsibility is state violence; the fact that 500,000 black people in the US are illegal refugees and banished to the shadows is state violence; the fact that undocumented immigrants and relegated to the shadows is state violence are seen as chips during moments of strife and war.

Quotation: (P12) “#BlackLivesMatter doesn’t mean your life isn’t important—it means that Black lives, which are seen as without value within White supremacy, are important to your liberation.”

(P13) “When we are able to end hyper-criminalization and sexualization of Black people and end the poverty, control, and surveillance of Black people, every single person in this world has a better shot at getting and staying free.”

(P16) “Progressive movements in the United States have made some unfortunate errors when they push for unity at the expense of really understanding the concrete differences in context, experience and oppression. Black Lives Matter is a unique contribution that goes beyond extrajudicial killings of Black people by police and vigilantes.”

Citation : García, Jennifer Jee-Lyn, and Mienah Zulfacar Sharif. “Black Lives Matter: A Commentary on Racism and Public Health.” *Jennifer Jee-Lyn García*, Aug. 2015, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4504294.

BBC News. Eric Garner death: 76 arrested at London Westfield demo [transcript]. BBC. 2014. Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-30424338>. Accessed December 12, 2014.

Summary: Not into an American dream were Black people published, but into what Malcolm X described as a “American nightmare” of racial deprivation and unchecked racism. It was racist terrorism that obscured the true magnitude of this injustice. The last vestiges of legal segregation against the civil rights movement were demolished by African Americans one hundred years

after Emancipation, but the movement's excitement soon drained as American cities were combusted with Black people who were furious and disillusioned with being shut out of enjoying the wealth of American society. In our judicial system, racialized police brutality, and police corruption, the latest non-indictments of police officers who murdered young Black men have sparked popular and academic debates on institutional injustices. In reaction to these incidents, what is glaringly missing is a public health viewpoint. Beyond these isolated events, they seek to fill this void and widen the ongoing conversation to a larger discussion about inequality in America and how it impacts the health and well-being of people of color. Their mission is not only to reinforce how prevalent systemic bias is in our culture, but how important anti-racist action is to public health's core priorities and values.

Reflection: I asked why this movement has arisen at this time, even though police brutality and terrorism throughout American history have been such a prevalent part of Black life. In doing so, I explored the ideological and political factors that, in particular, sometimes significantly slow down the battle for black rights. The insistence that Black deprivation is embedded in Black society has historically deflected focus away from the institutional origins of racism in Black people, causing African Americans to search inward rather than make demands on the state and others. Although, particularly when looking internally, this is a complex and conflicting mechanism that shows that most Black people work harder than anyone else and still do not get ahead. Although, particularly when looking internally, this is a complex and conflicting mechanism that shows that most Black people work harder than anyone else and still do not get ahead. It can be used to further undermine civic services, which are also the only barrier between poor and working-class residents and the streets, because we can not see the past and current uses of bigotry. The originally vested hopes of Obama, who instead behaved to silence and quench the Black uprising, The question has been brought to the fore: "can we free ourselves in America?"

Due to the brutality and violence that the police use, black people have become more resistant to the law in case they are found on the wrong side of the law. The supremacy system should train the police on how to treat people whether they are criminals or not. Black lives matter protests should not be a way of promoting violence against the police but away from creating awareness of what the black people face and the changes that the supreme system need to make in addressing various issues when dealing with people and not only the blacks alone. Some people argue that the actions of the few do not present or should not be used to judge the action of the majority. However, if one police commit a crime and he or she is not dealt with accordingly, then the same action may be repeated by others as they may think that they would also walk free if they commit the same mistake

Quotation:(P18) "Racism permeates our everyday lives, even if we do not readily acknowledge its power or pervasiveness."

(P4) ““I can’t breathe.” “Hands up.” “Black lives matter.” These statements developed in reaction to the recent deaths of Eric Garner, an unarmed Black man strangled to death by police in Staten Island, New York, and Michael Brown, an unarmed Black adolescent shot to death by police in Ferguson, Missouri.”

(P9) “Health disparities, discrimination, and residential segregation, which are topics familiar to public health researchers, are by-products of racism.”

Citation: Eligon, John. “Black Lives Matter Grows as Movement While Facing New Challenges.” *Black Lives Matter Grows as Movement While Facing New Challenges*, Washington DC, 28 July 2020, www.nytimes.com/2020/08/28/us/black-lives-matter-protest.html.

Summary: The fight for Black empowerment involves getting past the conventional idea that Black people have gone a long way but have a long way to go — which, of course, says nothing about where we are really trying to get to. It needs a more general interpretation of the origins and essence of Black inequality and bigotry. More notably, it needs a plan, an idea of how we're going to get from the present situation to the future. Black emancipation, even at the most fundamental form, means a life in which Black people will live in harmony, without the relentless threat of social, physical, and political woes of a society that puts absolutely no importance on the vast majority of Black lives. It's going to mean living in a world where Black lives matter. Black people in America can't "get free" on their own. In this way, Black empowerment is tied up with the process of national independence and social change. “The problem was not "the system," it was the isolation from access to anything American society had to offer”. Any leftists have also been drawn to the possibility of self-government and collective power. Indeed, it was a feasible tactic, considering that much of Black life was dominated by white government leaders and white-headed institutions.

Reflection: It has tried to shed light way beyond the brutal killings that the black people currently face and shows how the struggle for equal rights began a long time ago. For instance, the black people were enslaved by the whites in the early 1700s and 1800s where they were forced to work in harsh conditions without pay. The families were also broken down and sold, and during all these, they were not allowed to question the white people. Additionally, the blacks were separated from the whites by the segregation law. Unfortunately, up to date some of these laws are still practiced in some of our institutions. The segregation law prevented African

Americans from buying homes in the white neighborhood, barred them from certain jobs and had separate substandard schools. This affected the learning of the black children because some of them felt like a lesser human being and this also affected their mental growth. Although some laws were changed, some of the white people already brainwashed and still feel that they are superior compared to the black people.

Quotation: (pg193) “The problem was not “the system,” it was exclusion from access to all that American society had to offer.”

(pg191) “citizens of every race and color, without regard to any previous condition of slavery or involuntary servitude, shall have the same right, in every State and Territory in the United States . . . to full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and property, as is enjoyed by white citizens.”

(pg196) Black people are legal citizens of the United States with, for the most part, the same legal rights as other citizens. Yet they stand as colonial subjects in relation to white society.”⁴

Conclusion: Instead of pointing the blame at a few offenders, they call for a shift in culture and institutions as to how black people are treated. People also feel that the policing system, rather than individuals, is what is making them unsafe. When people and supremacy are addressing the issue of black lives matter, they should all have an open mind. However, the black lives matter movement has faced much criticism because some people believe that it is a hate group and encourages racism and violence while others think that it has not been crystal clear on its objectives. Hence for them to reach a positive and a common consensus with the government, they suggested that they should have a community representation in the police department who is aware of the challenges and the problems that they face in the community and also be able to accept their feedback on how to improve the police department. Since the court relies on the evidence provided by the police to make the judgment, black lives matter movement wished that other departments could independently investigate and prosecute the cases presented to them. This is because the police system is the one that enforces law and order and at the same breaks the law and cannot convict them. When police officers hurt the civilians, they should also be subjected to the law. To reduce black peoples killing, it would be better if the policing system would focus more on other forms of training such as de escalating situations and dealing with people of different backgrounds rather than spending more hours of training in firearms. When police are taught other means of dealing with situations, the firearm would be the last option for them to use when dealing with a suspect not unless they are forced to. Police should be taught how to use less force when dealing with people because they are human. It is important to note that racial inequality is not merely a symptom of economic inequality (Hillary Clinton). Black people have continued to face systemic inequities in the education system, economic opportunities, and justice system. More talks on creating awareness and action to be taken should

be done since up to date black people still face racism and discrimination in their daily lives. However as people are trying to come up with solutions to reduce the killings of the black people, the crimes that are being committed by the blacks should not be ignored. Crimes such as black to black violence should not be ignored. Moreover, once we can curb the police killing of the blacks, then we can be able to deal with the other problems that the community face on a large scale through good parenting and mentoring of children at a young age to grow morally upright. There is a genuine need to address such concerns. Blacks lives matter because just like everyone else, the black people were created free and equal and endowed with those inalienable rights protected by the law. Every black person is a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars they have a right to be here. As Dr. King rightly noted in his classic speech, "I have a dream". When our republic's founders penned the glorious words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they signed a promissory note that any American would be entitled to. This note was a declaration that the inherent rights of life, liberty , and the pursuit of happiness would be promised to all citizens. It is time for the promise to receive their due.