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Unit 3 Writing Assignment

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ARTIST STATEMENT

In October 2020 I worked on an annotated bibliography trying to find information about the disparities there is in our justice system. During this time, I worked on getting to know why our judicial system has become racially and economically bias against minorities.

I worked in creating a multimedia text titled “*A failed system: two justice systems*”, a presentation created to explain how the U.S criminal justice system has disproportionately failed not only African Americans but also other minorities including Native Americans. My presentation which includes words from former U.S. president Barack Obama, and other forms of statistics, takes a critical view on how our criminal justice system has shaped the lives of millions. What I would like to achieve throughout this presentation is to bring awareness about how our criminal justice system need to be reform. This will be achieved through the information and images I have chosen to create this multimedia text.

What I expect of my targeted audience is to positively react to, and hopefully get involve in trying to solve the problem of racial bias in the criminal justice system. I believe that a visual presentation accompanied with facts can showcase the real problem and hopefully get us in the track to do the much-needed reform that our criminal justice system is desperately needing. As I stated in the previous paragraph, I included a video from former U.S. president Barack Obama, in which he is being interviewed by Shane Smith, a Canadian journalist discussing what has become a major civil right issue in America.

In the American criminal justice system, “wealth not culpability shapes outcomes. Many people charged with crimes lack the resources to investigate cases or obtain the help they need, leading to wrongful convictions and excessive sentences, even in capital cases.”

Racial disparities persist at every level from misdemeanor arrests to executions. The “tough on crime” policies that led to mass incarceration are rooted in the belief that Black and brown people are inherently guilty and dangerous, and that belief still drives excessive sentencing policies today. More incarceration does not reduce violent crime. Using prisons to deal with poverty and mental illness makes these problems worse. People leave overcrowded and violent jails and prisons more traumatized, mentally ill, and physically battered than they went in. Today, nearly 10 million Americans including millions of children have an immediate family member in jail or prison.

This work was created and inspired by all the social movement against police brutality and all racially motivated violence against African Americans and other minorities groups. This presentation is trying to make a connection between our communities and elected officials to try to get the reform we need done.

In conclusion, my work is trying to achieve a particular goal. The goal is to make a bridge between communities to work towards a criminal justice reform. Education is an essential part of organizing for change, according to Shakti Butler, president and founder of the social justice and equity movement-building organization World Trust. “People need to do many things,” Butler told Global Citizen. “They need to educate themselves. They need to be willing to tell the truth to themselves and not deny it.