NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

**THE FIGHT AGAINST SEGREGATION CONTINUES…**

**EQUALITY IS NOT REACHED**

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The Fight Against Discrimination Continues…

Equality refers to the state of having the same rights. Throughout the years there had been many debates related to the treat that people have in different countries. These debates and events have put in doubt whether there is equality in this country. United States has been advertised like the most powerful country in the world where there rights of the people are protected. Recent events around the country may people think whether this is true or not.

Lately, the police have been involved in incidents of discrimination by the way they have acted. Civilians have died during their arrests. The images and videos showed on media question whether the police acted properly or not. According to the society, the police exaggerated in the use of their power. One example is Eric Garner’s case. CNN website states the last words from Eric Garner during its arrest. He said “**I can't breathe”, this shows how brutal the police were with him. There are more similar events that open the question if segregation still exists in this country, because all the arrests had happened against black or Hispanic people. Furthermore, discrimination is a problem that started many years ago.**

**It is difficult to understand how discrimination still exists in the twenty first century. The** discrimination has been a big part of the United States history. The issue started when the Anglo-Saxon arrived. The Anglo-Saxon moved out Native Americans from their territories. They brought Africans to work in their lands. Skin color separated from each other, creating different communities. In “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee, the author shows the injustices that black people were receiving. Moreover, the discrimination is not only related to the skin color. It also relates to gender, between women and men or women and women. In “The Making of a Slut” by Naomi Wolf, the writer describes how women are discriminate by the way they look. In addition, “A Lot of Learning Is a Dangerous Thing” by Gloria Steinem, the author explains the difficulties that women have to success in life. In spite of all the years, the United States continues facing discrimination that years ago were not fixed it with the laws that government implemented and lead society to violence and prejudice the life of people.

The old South of the United States can be seen as clear example of how discrimination brought chaos to the country. Alabama was a racist state. Most white people were against the black people. Black people were treated badly and they were not part of the society, because they did not have rights. It was difficult for colored people to win a battle against white people. Moreover, white people who defend the colored people were not look good by the other people. They were the enemy. In “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee, the author uses Tom’s trial to explain how black people were victims of the injustices of white people. Tom, who was a black person, was accused of rape by Bob Ewel. Bob Ewel was a white poor person. He accused Tom for raping her daughter. Atticus, who was the father of Scout, used all his knowledge to show that Tom was not guilty of rape. Tom was a good person who tried to help Mayella Ewell. During the case, Atticus tried to show that Tom was not guilty of Bob’s accusations. The author states, “Mr. Ewell wrote on the back of the envelope and looked up complacently to see [Judge Taylor](http://www.gradesaver.com/to-kill-a-mockingbird/study-guide/character-list#judge-taylor) looking at him as if he were some fragrant gardenia in full bloom on the witness stand, to see [Mr. Gilmer](http://www.gradesaver.com/to-kill-a-mockingbird/study-guide/character-list#mr-gilmer) half-sitting, half standing at his table. The jury was watching him, one man leaning over with his hands over the railing. 'What's so intrestin'?' he asked. 'You're left handed Mr. Ewell,' said Judge Taylor" (179-180). Atticus was trying to prove that Tom was not able to hit Mayella and rape her, because he did not have his left hand. The evidences showed that Tom was innocent and Mayella was not rape by him, while the writing of Mr. Ewell showed that he was left handed. This evidence represented that Tom may not be guilty of rape. Moreover, the testimony of Mayella Ewell was not convincing. The novel states, “It's an easy question Miss Mayella, so I'll try again. Do you remember him beating you about the face?' Atticus's voice had lost it's comfortableness; he was speaking in his arid, detached professional voice. 'Do you remember him beating you about the face?'

'I don't recollect if he hit me. I mean yes I do, he hit me” (188). In this quote, the author shows that Mayella Ewel was not sure about what she were testifying. She was beaten by somebody, but the reaction to her testimony question whether she is telling the truth or not. After all, the case looked favorable for Tom. Atticus did an excellent work to show that Tom was innocent. Unfortunately, the verdict was not the one expected by Atticus and the black community. Tom was finding guilty by the jury. Even though the evidences showed that Tom was innocent, the skin color influenced more. This verdict had its consequences. Tom tried to escape and he was murdered. This trial explains the injustices that black people suffered. Tom’s family was devastated. The actions of white people left a family without support. It cost the life of a person like anyone in this world. It is sad to notice that discrimination can cost lives of innocent people. The justice is not partial in this country; things out of reach influence others. This event expresses how the injustices because discrimination lead to violence. Furthermore, there was other issue that explains how discrimination can lead to violence. Mr. Ewell tried to vengeance what Atticus did in court. Atticus exposed him in court. Mr. Ewell tried to hurt Jeam and Scout. Fortunately, he was not able to do it. In other words, the case brought violence to Maycomb. This trial is nothing compare to Mississippi Burning movie. The movie is based in the Mississippi trial. The murders of three innocents took place in Mississippi. They were killed because they were fighting for their rights to the vote. The movie shows horror scenes of the town during the investigation of the crime. Black people were beaten and their houses and churches were burned. The skin color divided the town. White people felt superior and they did anything that they want because the local justice was in their favor. The black community did not have voice and vote. They lived in silence, because if they acted it could have been worse. The FBI showed evidences of how white people attacked the black community. The verdict was that the outside influence [FBI] promotes the violence in the town. The discrimination lead to the creation of the group Ku Klux Klan, the KKK terrorized the black community and made their lives miserable. This group shows how the discrimination leads to the violence in town. The discrimination was not creating equality between communities. The discrimination was dividing people and violating their rights. All these issues were happening in the country where pursuit of happiness is a right. How can people be happy if their lives are taken away? White people killing black people were normal in the south. In “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson, the author examines the problems that people have in society and living together. People did not accept other beliefs or customs. The society judges everything that they see strange. Ralph quotes, “Society never advances” (19). He examines the problems that society face. The society is never going to succeed if there are not changes. Society has to understand the different races that exist. They have to start accepting each other and not fight against them. The society will advance when the discrimination is finished and the acceptance of different races take place. The color of the people does not make someone different. According to Ralph, everyone is genius by nature, so everyone is equal. People did not accept others things. Some people think that these things were in the past, it does not happen in the twenty first century. Unfortunately, the violations of civil rights are happening nowadays in the United States. Recently, civilians, like Eric Garner, died by negligence of the police. In Missouri, Michael Brown was shooting by the police. The jury did not put charges against the police. All these incidents are seen like discrimination because the civilians’ deaths were black while the police was white. It leaded to a chaos of violence around the country. This supports the idea that the violence was originated by the discrimination against black people. Equality is something that the country should improve. If the equality between different races exists, the violence will decrease in this country. In spite of having more death, there will more happy communities in the country. Above all, the discrimination is not only based in the skin color. Also, the discrimination has to deal with gender.

Nowadays, stereotyping is a normal thing in our society. There are bad stereotypes and good stereotypes. Sometimes the stereotypes can prejudice the life of a person. In “The Making of a Slut” by Naomi Wolf, the author shows in her essay how the stereotypes lead to the discrimination of women in our society. Naomi Wolf quotes “In any group of girls, someone has to be the slut” (317); in this quote we can see how the society stereotypes a woman as a bad influence. Slut is not something that society looks with good eyes. If a woman is target as a slut, the society is not going to respect this woman and will look like a bad influence. The woman is stereotype before you know her. This kind of discrimination can destroy the dreams of a woman. Also, the author quotes, “Dinah got called a slut because she was too poor and she was too proud of her body, and, by implication, she was too proud of her sexuality” (318). The narrator showed the conditions of the young woman who was being stereotype. This stereotype is discrimination against the lower classes. The woman is being discriminated for being part of the lower class. Moreover, she is separate from the society –her friends- because the puberty helped her to have a better body with big breasts. Dinah is discriminate by her friends. They do not want to talk anymore. She is alone and starts to go out with other people. The school does not notice the effects that discrimination could have in Dinah’s life. Wolf quotes, “For weeks Dinah prepared” (319). Dinah was preparing so hard for the cheerleaders team. She was a good dancer and she did well in the auditions. Further, the Wolf states, “In a mostly poor and working-class school, almost all of the chosen were daughters of the middle class” (319), the quote is a clear example of how the society discriminate others for its economic status. Rich people have more advantages over poor people as Wolf showed with Dinah. The discrimination affected the life of Dinah. Dinah could not accomplish her goal. She was rejected from the cheerleaders for her economic status and body. It shows how the discrimination prejudices the life of poor people. Poor people cannot have the same opportunities. They have to overcome many obstacles to succeed. Dinah’s goal was frustrated by the society. She started to join gangs and adapt bad habits. The discrimination should be stop in this country. In one hand, if the discrimination is stopped against lower class and the opportunities are equal, more dreams will come true, in the other hand, if society keep with the discrimination against lower class, more people will be separate and equality is not going to exist in our society. According to Ralph, people who judge Dinah are ignorant, because that they do not see that being different is what makes a person to succeed. Dinah is living in the inmost, which makes her a great person, because she is not influenced by the outmost. She is a genius because she does not change and continue being her. Ralph states that the inmost is more important for the human being because they are following their instincts. In other cases, the discrimination is not only affecting the Hispanic or black people. In Daniel Fisher’s article, “Poor Students are the Real Victims of College Discrimination”, the writer shows the difficulties young people face for college education. There was a case called, Fisher vs University of Texas, where a Caucasian was not accepted. The author states, “Fisherrepresents a direct assault on this system. Student Abigail Fisher, who is white, sued after being refused admission to the University of Texas under a program that gives extra weight to black and Hispanic applicants”. In this case, the discrimination is represented in white people and the Hispanic and black people are favored. The discrimination is something that can affect anyone in society. The country would be better, if the regulations for entering to college are divided in economic status, or race. The opportunities should be the same for everyone. It does not have to favor a race or color. The students can suffer a lot for being rejected of the college that they dream about it. It happens for the preferences that colleges do to accept their students. As Fisher mentioned, student cannot dream about attending to Yale or Harvard because the tuition are too high and the opportunities are minimum. Upper class are the only one who can afford this goal, while middle class see their dreams come to an end. The norms to enter to an institution should change. Equality should be implementing in the education. The dreams of many young people are not reached because the admissions are not based on the education. Sometimes, the admissions are based in the race or class. The discrimination of women and students should be regulating by the government. There are many laws that protect women, but they are not respected. They are discriminate by how they look and behave. The government should help students with college tuition, because not everyone can afford it. If one of the rights in this country is to pursuit happiness, the government should help young people to reach their goals. The loan programs created are not working. Sometimes, students do not receive help from their parents. FAFSA helps students depending in the income of the family. Parents can have a good income, but it does not mean that they are going to help their sons in college tuition. Government should change their status to help women who are discriminate by their social economic class and students who cannot study by the admissions policies. The discrimination against women is not only between women. Moreover, women are discriminate by the society. They are look like the weak sex. They are always behind the men. A woman’s word do not work in a society dominate by men.

The idea that woman are the weak sex, increased the discrimination against them. If something bad happen in the society and woman are involved; they are blame. According to Wolf article, the men can say anything they want to women. In this case, she mentioned that men can think that a woman is a whore. It was not a problem that men think that way. It was women’s fault, because they dress sexy or look sexy. It is so embarrassing to see that discrimination against women happen, when people are born because of a woman. Wolf states, “She’s not a human being. She is a thing” (321), the quote explains how society sees women after they are stereotype like bad person. The women cannot be treated like that. They women’s rights have to be respect. They can be anything that they want, being different does not mean they are bad. The most embarrassing is those women are look like a thing. Every day, the prejudices are present in the society. Society does not accept the people who are different. It looks like people should do what society tell them to do. According to Emerson, people do not have to follow the outmost –society- they have to follow the inmost. Society has to understand that each person has its right to be different, that humans were created to follow their instincts and find its genius. The people are not going to find their genius if the society discriminate them for being what they want to be. The discrimination forces people to leave their dreams. Some people cannot support the pressure of the society and change to what society wants they to be. In the movie “The Accused”, the producer shows how the life of a woman can change by man’s actions. The movie shows how a rape can destroy the life of a woman. The society started to see her like a whore. She was rape, because she wanted. The woman did not have chances to win her case. The society was in favor of men. The lawyer did not help her; she closed the case with a deal with the other lawyers, where they were not accused of rape. It is sad to see that in society the difference of gender create these injustices. Everyone should be treating equally. The rape is not something that happens monthly. According to outside sources, there is a rape every six minutes. The rapes occur because the government does not help women with better laws. Moreover, men do not accept their actions and blame women. It is easier to believe that a woman provokes a man, that the man rape her. The society that we are building now, will affect the future generations. If people keep discriminating women and take advantages of them; the future generation will do the same thing. The world that we are building for our children will be based on the discrimination and the rape against women will increase. The rape is not something easy to overcome for women. Many of them start living a nightmare because society judges them and not the men who did it. Most of the time, the rape occur in young women. Instead of continue studying, young women have to take care of a baby. Sometimes the rapes end up in pregnancy. They have to change their books for pampers. It is sad to see how women’s dreams are given up for men’s actions. In “The Backlash Jubilee”, Jeanann Verlee shows how the life of a victim of rape changes drastically. She tells the terror that she lived after she was rape. She quotes, “She knew that going public would cause her greater trauma than trying to privately heal and move on with her life. She also knew that putting names to the story could put her in danger.” (480). this quote explains why many women keep in silence their rape. The public do not support them. They turn their back. If the women keep living in silence and the rape is not report, other women can be victims of the same man. It is not their fault. It is society’s fault because they do not help these women. Moreover, when women decided to accused men; the law turns against them because they did not report immediately. As Verlee, there are more women out who keep living voiceless, because they cannot face society. They know that society will discriminate and judge them. Furthermore, women are objectifying. In the documentary, “Miss Presentation”, we can see how the lives of many women changes by the media. The media is sending the wrong message about beauty. They media show beauty like skinny women. The media message makes women to have been unhappy with their bodies and create eating disorders on them. Women do not have voice and vote. All the power is on man’s hands. The documentary shows impressive statistics. The statistics are a clear example of the world where we live. The documentary shows that the political power in not equal. In a country where 51% of the population is woman, most political positions are hold by men. There had been only 34 women as governors. The United States never had a women president, while there are 67 countries where a women lead. It statistics show how divided is the country. Most people think that women cannot hold an important position. Women are relegated to the second position. They are always behind the men. They cannot have equality. Women’s rights are not equal as we think. They are inferior in front of society. Even films shows that woman are not important. The stars of most films are men. All these statistics are a clear example of the disadvantages that women face in this society. They have to work harder to accomplish what men do; even though they are better from the beginning. The discrimination against women should be stop. They need to have the same equalities. They cannot see their dreams out of reach because they are different gender. The discrimination based on gender prejudices her lives. They cannot keep dreaming because they are look like the weak sex who will always be behind men. According to Emerson, everyone has the right to go far in life. The outmost should not influence others. Unfortunately, society influences people live every day. They cannot follow their inmost, because society prejudices them with the discrimination. Furthermore, the discrimination based on gender starts in early ages. In “A Lot Of Learning Is a Dangerous Thing” by Gloria Steinem, the author show the discrimination that women face in educational system. The discrimination against women starts since they are children. Gloria states, “Boys are twice as likely to be seen as model students and praised by teacher, five times more likely to receive a teacher’s attention, and eight to twelve times more likely to speak up in class” (127). Steinem shows how women do not have rights since they are children. Even though women are more intelligent, they live in the shadow. They have to keep living in silence and follow the norms of society. The most impressive thing is that the discrimination is taking place in an education center. This event put in doubt what teachers are teaching the kids. The kids are learning discrimination in institutions where equality should exist. The early years are where kids absorb more information. The kids will think that discrimination against women is normal in society. They will do it when they grow up and rape could increase against women. The society should change their minds about women. Women cannot be discriminate. They are equal and gender should not block their dreams. Society should think about the damages that their actions can cause before they act. In this case, people should think in the consequences of discrimination before they discriminate others.

Equality should prevail over discrimination. The discrimination is not beneficial for our society. It is only separating societies and creating chaos in the country. Moreover, the discrimination is leading people to violence. Also, it is preventing people from reaching their goals. It was show that the discrimination created war between the white and black people. We can see how the Mississippi was devastated by the discrimination and Alabama families were incomplete. In Mississippi, white people beat black people. In Alabama, families were incomplete because their loves one dies because the injustices against black people. Furthermore, women could not reach their dreams. Their dreams were preventing by society. The society stereotype women as weak and men took advantage. They raped women without being punish for their actions. Finally, the discrimination based in anything should be stop by the society. The society should be together against the things that only hurt people lives.

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