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Recommended Citation

Delgado, Armando, "Black Lives Matter" (2020). *English Department: Research for Change - Wicked Problems in Our World*. 14.

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Black Lives Matter

Armando Delgado

Oct 20, 2020

The Black Lives Matter movement campaign was started because of the racism, inequality, and for the justice of African American. The movement started back in 2013 when police officers killed a young black teen, Mike Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri. The people of color have been getting mistreated and discriminated because of the color of their skin and still do at this time in the year 2020. I have been interested in the Black Lives Matter movement since I was 15 years old, because as a young colored 20-year-old male I care that colored people are getting treated the same as everyone else. I am still doing my research for this topic because this is still an everyday issue that needs more attention. Black Lives Matter is more than a movement that is currently happening, it is something I am deeply tied to the stereotypes and racial profiling that happens amongst other colored people today. I want to learn how to treat everybody equal on both sides as well as understanding the reason why people protest and the reason of the Black Lives Matter movement.

In the chapter Black Lives Matter, from the book *Faith in Action* I learned, “Black Lives Matter movement is a movement started by three queer women of color focused on police reform, advocating for human rights for African Americans, and addressing matters of racial injustice.” It was not difficult looking for information on my research topic because it has been a problem since slavery and is still currently going on till this day. This has been a popular topic for a long time so there is a lot on it. As there were more than 50 articles to choose from, I chose the ones that had the most useful information and making sure they are all correctly stated. The

chapter stated, “only 65% of participating police academies provided de-escalated training, while 95% provided firearm training. Police agencies spend roughly 58 hours teaching recruits about firearms and 49 hours teaching defensive tactics. Crisis intervention and de-escalation training are only about 8 hours each”. They are teaching the officers in training to be more ready with a firearm instead of having more time of them being taught to de-escalate situations to make sure that nothing crazy happens. I do still understand why they must be trained with a firearm, but they also need to train the officers in training how to de-escalate situations. With the police only having eight hours of de-escalation training, this brings me to think that police should require some sort of military background training to be able to apply to the police academy.

In “The Bigger Picture” one of the biggest artist’s out right now, Lil Baby, raps about all about the current events with the protests and wanting the officers arrested who have taken the lives of innocent blacks in the community. In the beginning of the song it has the news reporters talking on the beat as it starts up saying that Protest for George Floyd’s death grew with national outcry to this will never end but must change now. The protesters and demonstrators got lashed by tear gas and rubber bullets by the officers, who were there incase anything escalated. Officers shot people with rubber bullets in the head as well as killed many or sent them straight to the emergency room during all the madness. The main message in the song is to explain the reasons on why people are protesting and why the colored community has had enough after the killing of George Floyd, which had officers arrested weeks later and were bailed out after GoFundMe were created for the officers. This is what begun the “I CAN’T BREATHE” chant as those were George Floyd’s last words before he passed. Lil Baby also says in the song that he “finds it crazy the police will shoot you and know that you dead” and still tell you to freeze after shooting. Another line is “too many mothers that’s grieving, they killing us for no reason, been going on

for too long to get even, throwing us in cages like dogs and hyenas”. The most important line that I felt that stuck with me the most was when he goes into his first verse at 1:02 “every colored person aint dumb, and all whites not racist, I be Judging by the mind and the heart , I aint really into faces.” This is the one that sticks with me since that I have friends from multiple cultures and backgrounds, and I see them all the same. He goes on, “F*cked up the way the we livin’ is not getting better, You know how to survive...”, “I see blue lights, I get scared and start runnin,”, “That sh*t crazy they supposed to protect us”. It is my favorite line because it sticks, and he is talking exactly how people feel and see everything and put it into his music to support his people and community. The Bigger Picture also helps paint a picture that there is injustice and problems with the cops and the colored communities, and he is doing the song to help raise awareness with what Lil Baby has also experienced.

There are also advocates within professional sports such as in NFL and NBA; this has helped me gain more information as well. The NBA started the season with every player wearing a Black Lives Matter shirt and all players kneeled during the anthem. CNN states “In the wake of the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, NBA players and other athletes have been vocal in their calls for social justice as America reckons with racism and the deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police”(Danielle Sarver Coombs). Lebron James, was interviewed and talked about kneeling during the anthem and wearing the shirts for support of Black Lives Matter, acknowledged Colin Kaepernick who was the first player to ever kneel during the anthem in the 2016 season, which he also sacrificed his job for the deaths of Black Americans of police officers. The players in the 2020 NFL season have the Black Lives Matter logos on their helmets or of people who were innocently killed by police. The NBA in support of BLM had on the court “Black Lives Matter” for them to be heard. These huge events being

watched all over the world by all the fans of sports teams which gets the Black Lives Matter so much exposure to the world.

With this year being an important year with the upcoming election I feel that I am in a tough spot since that I feel that no political candidate on both sides has won my vote yet. With the two debates currently over, my friends and I had a discussion on who they are voting for. I have found many good things the current POTUS Trump has done and, I like some of the views Biden has. I like how Trump has had the lower unemployment rates amongst all races and increased funding for Historical Black Colleges (HBCUs). I also like Joe Biden because he has forty-seven years of being in a political position compared to Trump's from being a businessman to President. Also, I do like how I feel that Biden's America will be able to unite the country. I will be continuing to think about who will win my vote over since that I know we live in an important swing state in the upcoming election.

With the Black Lives Matter movement starting in 2014 with the killing of Mike Brown there has been countless other black lives silenced by police. This has been a hot topic recently with the killing of George Floyd this year. This has me worried that as a colored twenty-year-old that people of color are still stereotyped and discriminated against. I have found countless articles and other resources throughout researching this topic and I have picked the ones that stuck with me the most. I found that Black Lives Matter movement was founded by three queer women and that police have more time in training in firearms then they do in de-escalations techniques.

Alongside of the song The Bigger Picture by Lil Baby this has really opened my eyes with the events happening during the protest and it also helped me relate to it more since that it is by an artist I like to listen to. I also liked how the NBA has took to action to raise awareness to

the unfortunate situation we are living in since a lot of the NBA is of the colored community. With this upcoming election happening it is still a big debate in my head that whether each candidate would be a better one in my picture of America. This is going to be an important part of my life. The Black Lives Matter movement is more than movement, I hope this has informative on what has been going on in America.

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