



"I'm half white but I'm also half ethnic. Black lives matter gives the protection that everyone deserves our basic human rights. All lives matter blows my minds. It's about people playing the victim all the time when they could be helping the people who actually need help."

Sara Goodie, Junior



"I agree with #AllLivesMatter, but I do not agree with #BlackLivesMatter. All lives matter. It doesn't matter about skin color, race, or religion. All lives matter. You can be purple! You still matter!"

Zachary Green, Senior

WHOS LIVES MATTER? +

MHOS? TIAES? WALLIBS

In a poll of 70 people...
23% said #BlackLivesMatter

77% said #AllLivesMatter



African Americans represent 12% of the total population of drug users, but 38% of those arrested for drug offenses, and 59% of those in state prison for a drug offense.



African Americans now constitute nearly 1 million of the total 2.3 million incarcerated population

Division follows through

| **BRAELYN DIAMOND**

She feels chills. Not from the cold air of the freezer, but from the eyes that pierce through her skull. She knows she's being followed. She knows she's being watched. But mostly she knows someone is there. Even though anger fills her like helium in a balloon, being followed around a grocery store comes as no surprise to senior, Chyna Wallace.

"Being an African American you look conspicuous just by being black," she said. "That's not something most people have to deal with in their life."

As she continues her shopping, she feels comfort knowing she isn't alone.

African Americans have now, more than ever been fighting for the justice that they feel they have for years been denied. Since the shooting of Trayvon Martin in 2013, #BlackLivesMatter has sparked debate across the country.

Wallace explains her perspective on the popular phrase.

"Once black lives matter, all lives will matter,"

"Once black lives matter, all lives will matter," she said. "Saying black lives matter doesn't mean
Chyna Wallace

she said. "Saying black lives matter doesn't mean that all lives matter. It means that not all lives are in danger."

After outcries of the injustice African Americans felt began to spark movements, supporters of #AllLivesMatter began to criticize the stance they felt was held by the growing group.

A supporter of #AllLivesMatter, Zachary Green explains his problems with #BlackLivesMatter.

"It shows that they only care about themselves," Green said. "All lives matter, no matter what."

However, junior Sara Goodie feels that those who chant #AllLivesMatter are simply trying to play victim.

"There's a reason that there isn't a white history month. Every month is white history month," she said.

Despite the fact that some find themselves separated over the two groups, there's a unity in the belief that racism is still a prevalent issue. An issue that many students feel calls for change. An issue

that they find themselves standing up for in their school and their community.

Although he hasn't personally felt victimized because of his race, Joel Bryant stands up when he witnesses injustice done to others.

"Every time I see it, I step up," Bryant said, "It doesn't matter who it is."

Although she would like to do more about racism, Wallace came to the realization while strolling down the grocery store aisles that the issue is simply far bigger than her.

"It's not really something I can change as an individual. It's systematic," she said. "I can only hope for the best, and that this separation and injustice will soon pass."



Nation pulls through racism

| **ALEX BROOKS**

Feb 24th, 2016.

Driving at a reckless speed, he didn't know. He didn't know what he would encounter. He didn't know that he would be suspected...

"I suspect you're under the influence of drugs," the officer said to Trey Smith.

He realized that because he was African American, he was pulled over. Because he was African American, he was suspected to have drugs or be under the influence. It wasn't a good move to have.

A big topic around schools and communities, there are still many cases in which racism is prominent.

Tamir Rice. 12. Killed for playing with a toy gun. Eric Garner. 43. Killed for distributing unlicensed cigarettes. Michael Brown. 18. Killed because he ran away. Trayvon Martin. 17. Killed for having skittles and an Arizona tea, wearing a hoodie.

And that's just to name a few.

2012. A year of heartache. Heartbreak. Tragedy. Hence, the creation of #BlackLivesMatter.

It's not just a moment or a hashtag. It's a movement.

But the stereotypes that African Americans face hasn't stopped there. There is constantly someone killed or being discriminated against, but go unnoticed or unresolved.

But stories such as these aren't new or unusual. Junior Sara Goodie, puts it like this.

"If you're at a baseball game and there aren't any stands and there is a short little kid and a moderately tall person and then a giant, why would you give the giant the stool when the kid can't even see the game! It's a waste of stools!"

[Conclusion will basically end with the point of #BlackLivesMatter and why it's important to make change. I will include ways to raise awareness about the quote or like how effective social media is with the hashtag and end it with a strong quote.]

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