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English Composition 100

Professor Mangini

Formal Assignment #3: Research Project, Draft #1

Due Date: 11:59pm on Monday May 11, 2020

How can Americans stop police brutality against black men?

Police Brutality is one of the terrifying things going on in the United States today. Police brutality is the use of excessive force between an African American man and a police officer. Some black men killed due to police brutality are Michael Brown and Eric Gardner, just to name a few. The above names lost their lives over something so senseless. We, as black people, are told to abide by police rules at all causes so that we do not end up shot or in prison. That maybe be hard to do because I believe police officers do not know how to handle black men. They tend to use extra force when it comes to us. I am not saying that everything a black man put his self into is right but, police need to know when not to pull the trigger. There has been publicized incident were police have gone over the line with misconduct against black men. We, as black people, need to find a way where we can come together to be able to save our black men's lives. So, I will ask you all this. How can Americans stop police brutality against black men?

Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black man, was shot and killed by officer Darrien Wilson on August 9, 2014. Officer Darrien is a white police officer from Ferguson, MO, who shot and killed Michael Brown. He saw that Mr. Brown fit the description of a man who was stealing from a market and liquor store. Officer Wilson pulled up beside the two men while they were walking from the convenience store. He was alone in his police vehicle when the shooting happened. Officer Wilson started talking to Mr. Brown and his friend from the window of the S.U.V. He then positions his S.U.V. to block the two men as well as the traffic. When the altercation between Officer Wilson and Mr. Brown began, who was standing at the window of the vehicle. Officer Wilson fires two shots from the inside of the police vehicle. The first shot gazed at Mr. Brown's thumb while the other one missed him. Mr. Brown began running east down the street, and Officer Wilson runs after him on foot. Mr. Brown stops and turns towards Officer Wilson, who also stops and begins firing several more shots. There were so many people out there that witness everything that happens, but unfortunately, Michael Brown was dead.

The day of the trial for Michael Brown was not easy at all. People from the black community were upset and in outrage because the man that shot and killed him was set free. The judge found him not guilty of any crime. Michael Brown’s parents were in disbelieve about what they just had heard. How could a white man just shoot an unarmed black man and get away with it? Their final verdict was that he had probable cause to shoot Mr. Brown. That is when the city of Ferguson lost it. They began setting buildings on fire, protesting for the rights of our African American men, and so much more. It was like a war between the city of Ferguson and The Police Department. The city of Ferguson will never be the same, and it is almost five years since Michael Brown’s killing.

Then there was the case of Eric Gardner, who was killed on July 14, 2014, by a police officer. That police officer was Daniel Pantaleo of the New York City Police Department. Officer Pantaleo approach Mr. Gardner on the street and question him about selling single cigarettes without having a tax stamp. Mr. Gardner then told police that he was tired of being harassed about cigarettes that he was not selling on the street. That is when the officers attempted to arrest him. When Officer Pantaleo began to place his hands-on Mr. Gardner, he refused to cooperate and pulled his arms away from the officer. The officer then decides to wrap his arm around Mr. Gardner's neck and wrestled him to the ground. Then that is when the other officers help Pantaleo pinned him down. As they had him down on the floor, Gardner repeatedly kept saying, “I can’t breathe,” he said that 11 times while he was face down on the ground of the sidewalk. That is when Mr. Gardner began to lost consciousness, and the officer started to turn him over to ease the breathing. Mr. Gardner laid on the sidewalk for seven minutes until the ambulance arrives. Once the ambulance arrived and took him to a nearby hospital, the doctors pronounced him dead an hour later. Officer Pantaleo was placed on desk duty after the incident happen.

As you can imagine, all charges against him dropped. The judge stated that the evidence does not support charging Police Officer Pantaleo with a federal civil rights violation. Mr. Donoghue also stated that he could not prove Officer Pantaleo willfully used excessive force to violate Mr. Gardner’s rights. The Gardner family and its supporters were let down, and the justice department had failed them. There were protesting just like it was for Michael Brown because the African American community could not understand how another white police officer got off for killing a black man.

Our problem is black men and women do not like to be talked down to or belittled like a piece of trash. I feel one way to stop Police brutality is for the officers to have better trained on how to interact with African Americans. They are supposed to be protecting us, not killing us. We can start by having meetings with the chief of police on how to make the black community a little better when it comes to dealing with a police officer. One key to helping save our black men's lives is to work side by side with the police force. Learn how to communicate with each other to understand better what is going on between white officers and black men. We have the power to make a lot of change for more black men and women, so they do not have to die. I know this will be a long road, but we must stop this white on black crime. It is doing nothing but killing our fathers, brothers, uncle, friends, and husbands. We must educate our black men and women, especially men, always to remain calm and do not say much, so his chances of survival are better. We must be smart in this situation cause it is a matter of life and death when it comes to a police officer and us.

We always made a way out of no way when things like this happen. Remember, we always had to fight when it came to rights as blacks; this should be no different. Yes, we have been going through police brutality for a long time, but I feel things are a little different now. The reason I say that is because we have cameras that show precisely what happens when it comes to police and black men. I am aware that they do not always work, but we have gotten justice on some police officers who have killed a black person while on duty. So, we must keep marching and fighting for the rights of all black people. We have a voice, and people will start to listen to us, but it will take some time to get where we need to be. We must elect the right judges and politicians to fight for equal rights for the black community. It will not happen tomorrow, next week, or next year, but it will happen. I am confident that it will be a change. We cannot change the world overnight, but we can, sure enough, try one black community at a time. I will say this to give you hope and hopefully change your outlook a little bit on this subject. We must think positively about a better solution and pray that things get better for black brothers and sisters in our community.

Work cited

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