

A story of Half Truths and Dicrimination



Love

NO MORE
HATE!

I'm NOT
A THREAT



PEACE

STOP
Killing
US



quality

T.O.C

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Why Us?

Devon Johnson

I'm sick of the pain
Like moths to a flame
We never make it to
Walking with a cane

Why us
Why George Floyd
Why Breonna Taylor
Why were they taken

Maggots get rid of carcasses
And you get rid of us
We did nothing
Yet still feeling threatened
You try to kill us

You are the early bird
And we are the worm
When will this cycle end
Why us

Poem explanation

"like moths to a flame we never make it to walking with a cane"- A metaphor comparing moths going into danger blind to black people walking into danger without really knowing anything or what's happening.

"Maggots get rid of carcasses and you get rid of us"- this is a metaphor that compares the way maggots get rid of dead animal bodies to the way police brutality just leaves dead black people the way they are without a proper burial.

"We did nothing, yet feeling threatened you try to kill us"- This is imagery showing how police brutality is usually unprovoked and how officers who committed the crime say a weapon was drawn or they felt threatened.

"Why us, Why George Floyd, Why Breonna Taylor, Why were they taken"- this could be repetition because of the repeated use of why at the beginning or it could be imagery where you can visualize and get an idea of the people who's lives were lost to police brutality.



Poem

inspired by **On a New Year's Eve** by June Jordan
Half Truths

Half Truths don't interest me anymore
I'm sick of the "equality" talk

I wanna walk into a room and not be stared at like im a fancy decoration
I wanna walk into a room and be treated like a person

Not be discriminated
Not be told off without words

Not looked at because i'm a minority
Because i'm not part of the majority

I kneel and sit down
I pray to the lord
I pray to my god
To please give us real equality
And then they go on to to say
All lives matter
As if to mock them
As if to mock people who wish to be free

Yes all lives matter however why say that when you don't care
Don't care 'bout us don't care 'bout their safety
Why say that when you react if its a white man if its a white woman who gets hurt

But a latino
But a black man
But a latina
But a black woman

Please say all lives matter
elf you truly believe it
If you truly do care as much if a black man if a latino if a latina if a black woman gets hurt

Poem explanation

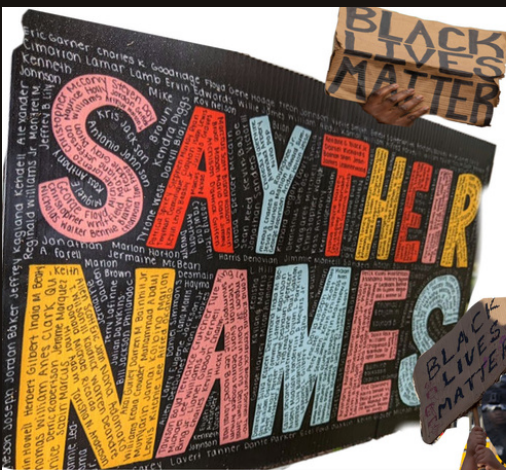
Who was my poet inspiration?

The poet who had inspired me within the writing of my own poem was June Jordan. I had chosen her because i believed i could at least replicate some of her style and the way in which she writes but also because i had seen and researched her in a previous project

What elements of the poet/poem inspired me?

I was inspired by June Jordans way of writing in which she usually talks about her daily life and daily activities but can go into different events going on and go deep into them if she wishes to. Another part which inspired me was the layout of the poem i chose and how it talked about its topic

Creative Submission



BBC NEWS

Home UK World Business Politics

Black Lives Matter in the UK: 'We're still not being heard'

WE WANT TO LIVE

By Michael Elgort

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Schmidt disputes systemic racism in policing, calls George Floyd's murder an isolated incident



Breonna Taylor: Falsified Warrant Details Furthers Police Distrust

Former Louisville detective Kelly Goodlett admitted that she and another officer lied about warrant info.

SAY HER NAME



Top, Jan. 6: Trump supporters storm the Capitol building. (Evelyn Hockstein for The Washington Post)

Above, June 1: Black Lives Matter protesters demonstrate outside the White House. (Jose Luis Magana/AFP/Getty Images)



State College News

Hundreds gather for State College's Black Lives Matter protest sparked by death of George Floyd

What to Know About the Death of Daunte Wright

A police officer fatally shot Mr. Wright in Brooklyn Center, Minn., about 10 miles from where Derek Chauvin was on trial in the killing of George Floyd.

where Derek Chauvin was on trial in the killing of George Floyd



Lafayette Square, Capitol rallies met starkly different policing response

WE ARE NOT TREATED EQUALLY



Ex-Oath Keeper says 'many weapons' were stored outside capital during Jan. 6 attack

Five Oath Keepers are on trial for seditious conspiracy.

"I had not seen that many weapons in one location since I was in the military," said Terry Cummings, a former member of the group's



Interview

Guiding question: what is BLM to you?

Question 1: What is one thing which you believe BLM has successfully accomplished?

I think blm has been able to put a name to a cause. When we say BLM there is an instant association with police brutality and racial injustice.

Question 2: Do you believe that these change(s) were good or bad based on the effect it had?

I think the changes were redundant. BLM profited off of the clash of the preexisting racial injustices and the rise of social media. What they did was not innovative and they didn't move us any closer to racial justice but many of the leaders have become rich

Question 3: What is something that distinguishes BLM from other social justice movements, ex the women's right movement and others

BLM felt like a movement that first the first time did not feel inclusive. It was like the group that started blm had events that were exclusive to them and the protests and marches that were done by civilians for the cause of racial injustice felt separate

Question 4: Do you believe the BLM movement made any mistakes? If so, what were they?

I think their mistake was in not understanding their power and their platform. They were given so much power and could have used that to elevate an issue using social media. It would have been the first time that the civil rights movement used the power of the social media platform to bring about change. But the leaders of the movement didn't have the stamina to stay the course once the blm hype died down. Once they weren't personally getting the attention they lost interest and the movement was short lived

Question 5: Relating to the capitol siege in 2021 and the various peaceful protests over the course of 2020 how do you feel about the different police responses to the events?

I doubt there is any person of color who was alarmed by the disparities with which the two groups were treated. It is not new behavior. police have been treating minorities and issues related to race with bias for decades. The media highlights these issues and sensationalizes it as if it is new but it's simply more of the same.

Question 6: Do you think that BLM has prevented police brutality?

I don't think it has prevented police brutality. Police departments have become more cunning with how they antagonize and terrorize black people and other minorities because of the attention that blm has brought to police brutality through social media. Behaviors that have been so systematic and reinforced for so long are hard to change long term. BLM is in its infancy with regards to being able to effect lasting change

Question 7: How do you think BLM has changed views on the police

Ironically I think blm had made non-minorities more aware of police brutality and has forced white people to take a closer look at the abuse of power with the police. For black people I think it just validated what they have been saying for years about how police treat them

Question 8: What are your thoughts on police, do you think they are here to protect and serve?

I personally have had some pretty positive experiences with police however I do not think the system of police overall is to serve and protect. The concept of police come from slavery and even then those people were created to hunt and torture black slaves. This dynamic has persisted throughout time.

Who did i interview and why? i interviewed my advisor ms. Stewart due to my belief that she would be more knowledgeable not only as a black woman but also as a person who has likely dived deeper into the movement and also had more insight due to her position as a advisor having to understand us students and issues which could likely affect us as well

interview

This interview is from the perspectives of my(Devon) parents Barbara Brown and Christopher Johnson

Question 1

what is Black lives matter and what does it mean to you

Black lives matter is exactly as its name says and police need to treat black people the way they would treat someone who is white

Question 2

Why is BLM important today

because police brutality has been going on for decades

Question 3

where do you think BLM will be in the next 5 to 10 years

because the laws not being enforced black people may take the law into their own hands to determine their own justice

Question 4

what is it like to be black in America today

"frightening because as a mother of boys I wonder if i'll ever get the phone call"

Question 5

do you believe that BLM has accomplished anything?why or why not

No because the same injustices continue to happen where black people are killed unprovoked and black on black crime continues to happen

Question 6

How do you think the BLM movement could improve or grow overall

For BLM to improve one of the biggest problems to solve would be Black on Black crime as that is something that plagues the black community other than police brutality

Question 7

how can creativity play a pivotal role in the black lives matter movement

It can play a pivotal role because of the way murals are made all over America whenever someone's life is taken unjustly to show that the black community is not happy and to gain more support in the movement

question 8

Where would America be without Black lives matter movement

America would probably be set back many years because even though the movement hasn't accomplished much with there still being police brutality, it still has gained the attention of the government on different occasions. Overall if you take that away what do you have, without some of this support from the movement black people may be in a worse position

Contributor Page

Devon(Me)- BLM is relevant to me because I am a mixed African American male but most people only see me as black and because of this I've been looked at like an alien, and discriminated against.

Emmanuel- BLM is relevant to Emmanuel because though he is not black he is still a minority and has been discriminated against because he is a Hispanic latino male.

Artist statement

most of the time when I am creating the art that I love I kinda just go in blind and don't worry too much about a reference, but with black lives matter it was different. Growing up black you really just get a feel of what it means to be black so with this topic had to really ask myself what is Black Lives Matter and how do I make an art piece that compliments this. The picture I made was really easy to make and fun because there are many examples of Black Lives Matter art online and I really just took all of those consistent ideas and added them into one picture. When it comes to BLM you really want to show the feeling so what I did was I wrote different words like respect, peace, change, equality, etc. because this is all that we want, we just want to be treated with respect and not as a monster.

I based my poem on Ocean Vuong's writing style because I really appreciate the way a lot of emotion on top of metaphors and imagery is used to show that something you believe in should have a lot of passion towards it or it will feel like the topic doesn't matter. In terms of structure, I made sure to incorporate imagery and metaphors to show the pain and grief that many families have gone through because of police brutality.

Artist Statement

how did you use creativity to convey your zine's main purpose and explore your zine's question?

I tried to stick to a certain color palette and incorporate shapes within my pages. These colors were more contrasting with each other with dark white black grey and red accents which can be related to BLM and how white people can contrast each other and yet can still coexist and work together to make one good canvas

I based my poem off of "On a New Years Eve" by June Jordan i incorporated the layout/design o the poem and how it was written and also tried to connect the figurative language i used with the ones used in the poem as well

My creative submission was a collage it incorporated various news articles at various points of BLM and how the views have changed how it is viewed separately from other movements and the various events which BLM has helped to solve and to give better treatment

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Red links-Emanuel

Pink links-Devon

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