

# Research Paper

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PART 1

Discrimination and racism are two simple words that have brought pain and destroyed families; yet, it still exists in today's society. Racism has always been in issue in the world- the holocaust and segregation are great examples. There is no certain date when discrimination began, racism has always existed, but during the 19<sup>th</sup> century discrimination toward African Americans was a big deal in the world because of slave trade between Africa and the United States. Slavery started after several states passed a law that gave American's the right to own slaves, which defined the African American's as property not human beings. As a result, "white" people began to believe they were inferior to "black" people because of their color and race.

Although segregation between African Americans and Americas lasted awhile, the segregation did not bring as many deaths as the holocaust. The holocaust was the persecution and murders of about six million Jews by the Nazi in Germany. In 1933, the Nazi's came in to power in Germany. The Nazi regime believed that the German's were superior to the Jews; Jews were thought to be inferior and did not deserve to live. Six million Jews died because of the hatred the Nazi had toward them for what they were. Hitler, the Nazi leader, believed in Social Darwinism- the idea that superior human being should triumph over the poor- therefore, Hitler wanted to eliminate the Jews and he accomplished it. Hitler and the Nazi's destroyed many families and the innocence of many kids. The holocaust lasted about eleven years and ended thanks to the Allied armies who took control over Germany and liberated the remaining concentration camps. (The Holocaust a Tragic Legacy)

Let's not forget about the discrimination toward Chinese. The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed 1882, in which prohibited a Chinese to become a US citizen. American fear for job loss because the Chinese were immigrating to the US and taking over jobs getting paid minimum wage, as a result the government had to intervene and decide to pass the act in order to stop Chinese immigration. (The Chinese Exclusion Act: A Black Legacy)

We are now in the 20th century and racism still exists. Today's society still believes their inferior than other races, discrimination between each race gets stronger and stronger. Discrimination toward African American's is not as high as it was in the 19th century. Another race that has shown to be highly discriminated is the Hispanic race. Most American's believe that the Hispanics are taking over America, especially the Mexicans. Americans think that all Hispanics are illegally living in their country and the Americans want them out. In April 2010, Arizona passed a legislative law toward illegal immigrants. All aliens are required to carry registration documents in order to be properly sure they live in the USA legally. This law is basically racial profiling Hispanics. (NCSL)

Racism is an issue that has been passed from generation to generation. Kids learn from a very young age that certain races are thought to be superior to others. Racism is not as high as it was couple of centuries ago, but it still exists because of all the stereotypes our society has created. For example, in the media industry African Americans are portrayed as thieves or wife beaters with bad self-control. Mexicans are described as being lazy who just get money from the government. These stereotypes lead toward discrimination.

## PART 2

Social structures manipulate discrimination and racism in many ways. One great factor of influence is the media. Today's society is influenced mainly by the media. We, the people from this society, let the media be a big part of our life. The media manipulates us in many ways. The media has set standards in where if we want to be accepted by the society we need to follow the rules. Media stereotypes our society; African Americans are seen as violent individuals whom cannot be trusted. Asians are described as persons that cannot see because of their small eye features. All of the stereotypes are being set because of the ethnicity of the individual. At the end an individual is being criticized because of where they come from. Mass media tend to negatively stereotype.

Recently, in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the media influence the case in many ways. The media made a big deal of the shooting and made it seem as a racism act. The evidence does not prove George Zimmerman shoot Trayvon because of his skin color, but the evidence does lead to that direction. Not one would ever know the truth, but Trayvon's death brought many people together to stop discrimination and start and act to end the Stand Your Ground law.

The government also plays a major role in discrimination. The government is the authority of our nation and their acts influence our nation in many ways. In recent news, certain public figures, such as a police officer, have discriminated the illegal immigrants that cross the border from Mexico to the USA. Patrol officers are being involved in mistreating the powerless immigrants. In several cases, border patrol officers have killed immigrants. One of the most talk cases is the killing of Anastasio Hernandez Rojas. Border patrols beat up and

tased Anastasio to death; footage from the incident show Anastasio crying for help and pleading the officers to stop, how can an officer, who is supposed to protect us, kill a human being just because he was an immigrant. The government is supposed to protect and treat everybody equally no matter if they are foreign or residents.

Education is another social structure factor that brings discrimination. Some schools continue to be segregated, especially by creating public and private schools. By the creation of public and private schools the system continues to segregate the minorities from the superior race. Private schools have a better education and are mostly schooling wealthy children. Public schools are more for the less fortunate, the education is still good, but the lack of funds in the school make it hard for a student to have better school subject and sports.

Racism has also brought our economy down. Exploitation is a great example of racism. Minorities are getting paid less and some have to work minimum wage in order to have a job. Minorities tend to have secure lower jobs, which can be the worst jobs ever. Discrimination between men and women exist. Men are more likely to get paid more than a woman because of their gender, which is sexism. Women have to fight for their jobs and prove they are as equal as men. Our society has created this gap between men and women in which women are seen more of a household maid and men as the hard working gentleman's who provide for their household without the help of their wife. (Social Problems and the Quality of Life)

### PART 3

One of the fallacies of discrimination is the fallacy of circular reason. The fallacy of circular reason is the conclusion to support the assumptions that were necessary to make the conclusions. Basically is the thought that minorities are always and have been biologically inferior. For example, a person can argue that African Americans are stupid and "white" people have more knowledge just because certain "whites" have more options to private school and are more likely to get educated well in compare to African American, which are more like to drop out or their school system has terrible education. The theory of biological inferiority has being shown through Social Darwinism and natural selection. Not only is the theory setting up standards, but it basically says a person cannot progress.

A second fallacy is the fallacy of non sequitur. The fallacy of non sequitur is something that does not follow logically from what has preceded it. Prejudicing a person comes with after thoughts, for example, "They are on welfare, therefore they don't want to work; they have more children than they can properly care for, therefore they show themselves to be immoral; they don't speak proper English, therefore they are intellectually inferior." (Lauer and Lauer 243)

Discrimination and racism are great example of social problems in our society. Social problem are problems the world has in our nation. Social problem are hard to solve, but with dedication and commitment to solve the issue the problem might get solve. In this case, discrimination would never end. We grew up in a world were discrimination has been going on for years and has never stop, it has being passed from generation and will continue to progress.

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