



RGUSON

TARGET IN AMERICA

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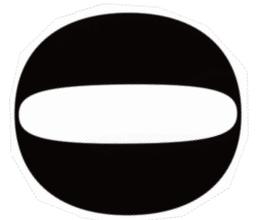
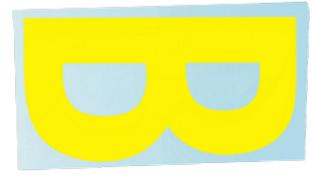
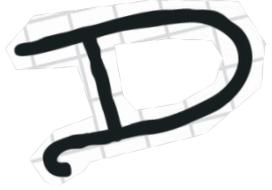
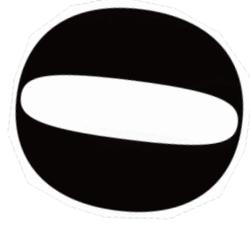
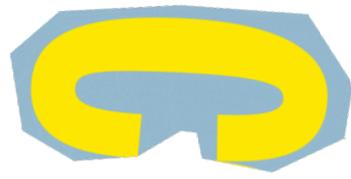
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Do you know the feeling

**Another beautiful day in America!
That's what I would say if it was true**

Do you know that feeling? You know

//

**Being screamed at to get down on the ground.
Or putting your hands up trying to stop the shaking
As you slowly lower yourself to the ground
Begging them not to shoot.**

**I'm tired of seeing my people on
The news.**

**I mean to experience such a horrible feeling
the tears streaming down your face
As you pray
Not knowing if God is listening**

**But if He is
You pray this is not the end
You pray you are not another innocent victim**

I'm scared

//

**How can I not fear
When those who look like me
My mom,
And my brother, Is getting shot with the justice of ignorance.
I guess, trying to live must not be loud enough anymore.
They would rather us try to die.**

**it's crazy because this seems like a fairytale.
Because now a cell phone symbolizes a gun,
Skittles are now weapons,
Headphones are now bullets,**

**Toy guns are now real,
And missed turn signals can now have you murdered.**

**You're probably wondering Whom am I talking about?
I am talking about those who believe in ignorant justice.
Who thinks because he was a black boy in a hoodie he
Was suspicious or dangerous looking.**

//

**I'm so tired of speaking on the subject
What will take for this to be the end**

The purpose of my Zine is to bring awareness of police brutality. I think it's such an important topic that's been going on for many years. It has a big impact on African American people's lives and what we have to go through on a daily basis. I wanted others to see our point of view and how we feel about this topic and how badly we are targeted by it. This topic is getting to become a regular and I don't want it to. I fear it could be me or a close family member of mine. It's not to attack anyone but more so to bring everyone together to find some type of problem-solving settlement.

PRO
BRUTAL

WHITE



Today I interviewed a man named Rashine who has lived in Philly all his life and has seen it all. He has also experienced some terrible encounters with police officers as well. We will be asking him some questions about how he feels about his community and police brutality, and we will hear his side of the story.

**What is your name, where are you from and how long have you been there?
My name is Raishene and I live in Philly. I have lived in Philly all my life.**

What is your definition of police brutality?

Wrong cop, Who takes advantage of young black men or African Americans in general.

.Do you feel comfortable complying with police officers?

Yes, you have to if you don't comply you can go to jail. It's always good to comply to see what they want you to do as far as procedure.

. How does police brutality affect our community?

as we speak there are a lot of ups and downs going on. But we do need them to protect us and our families.

**. what are other examples of police brutality other than physical abuse?
They could be stalking someone or harassing them.**

have you ever had a personal experience with the police? How did it go

yes, I have in 1996 when I was 16. I was going to the park to play basketball when I got stopped by the police officers. I was accused of murder and they said I fit the description of the suspect. They took me in and showed me pictures accusing me of murder being so harsh forcing me to admit something I didn't do. after a couple of hours, the sergeant came in angrily telling them I wasn't the suspect. They sent me out to my parents. My mom was angry with the officers but glad I was out and safe.

.Do you think the police officers have racist and biased elements?

Yes, of course, is been going on since the beginning of time. You will always run into different districts.

. Do police make you feel less comfortable in your community?

It depends because there are good police officers out there and bad ones so I would say depending on the cop and what their motive is.



I want my audience to understand how important police brutality is and how it's an ongoing topic. I want the audience to understand the point of view of how African Americans are targeted in America or in general. In my drawing, you can see that I have a broken sign that says "police brutality." That's me saying I want this cycle of violence to end. And you can see I drew a fist that says "black matters" because our lives do matter and these situations happen to us too often. In my zine, you can see I used a lot of black and white and a pop of color here and there. I wanted mostly for my zine to be black and white. I also thought it would be cool to use elements such as colorful squared digital cut-out alphabet magazine letters to spell out certain things in my zine. The poem I based my poem submission on was "Not an elegy for Mike Brown" by Danez Smith. Irony, free verse, enjambment, and hypophora were all employed. In my poem, you can see that I asked my audience a question about knowing the feeling of being black and being treated unfairly by cops. I also asked the audience who they might be wondering whom I was talking about, and I explained whom I was talking about. The irony was used in my poem when I said, "Another beautiful day in America," which was not how I felt. In some of my stanzas, you can see I paused and started using enjambment. Overall, in my poem, I expressed how I felt and what was going on about police brutality without having to rhyme or use regular meter. I used freeverse by doing that, using Danez Smith's poetic devices and structure in his poem.

SOURCES

Peters, Marquita. "Being Black in America: 'We Have a Place in This World Too'." NPR, NPR, 5 June 2020, <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/05/867060621/being-black-in-america-we-have-a-place-in-this-world-too>.

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