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| The Issue Of Race And Discrimination In America  paper #1  Your Full Name: Lyith Bamollem  HCR 362, Section 2  Due Date: 09/16/2016 |
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The Issue of Race And Discrimination In America

**Section 1**

I think that people in the United States talk too much about race, but it never seems to be enough and neither does it appear like these discussions will ever come to an end. Put differently, our history as Americans will not allow us to move beyond the discussion of race, and this is rather unfortunate. I wish we could have an America where differences in color and ancestry are not used as differentiating factors upon which an individual is judged. Moreso, like Martin Luther King Junior, I hope for the day where people in America will not be viewed based on “the content of their character rather than the color of their skin” and/or other biological differences (Race Power of An Illusion). In as much as we all believe that we are free Americans, our history, both political and cultural, still keeps us shackled to racial differences and stereotyping.

The truth is we talk about race, but do we see race? Sociologists, historians, psychologists, anthropologists, biologists, as well as legal scholars, argue that race is not we see – it is what we “think” we see (Race Power of An Illusion). In other words, it is an illusion that people have believed in so much so that it has taken as truth. Since the beginning of ancient America, individuals have been judged based on the color of their skin, eyes, hair, type of eyes, and type of hair, just to mention with the whites being the most preferred race in America. Unfortunately, whiteness and otherness [referring to all other races except white] were, and to a large degree still are, defined according to what the white man says they are.

**Section 2**

I do not think that people today should be held accountable for past discrimination. What happened I the past cannot and should not matter as long as people are willing to make amends. I believe that what really matters is what people do now for the sake of tomorrow. Raising a fracas over past discrimination and calling for accountability of the past deed will not do us any good; all it will do is reopen the wounds that have healed or are in the process of healing. Instead why not just come together, admit we were wrong and work together for a better tomorrow? Is this not better than engaging in a fight of who did what, when and how? I say that doing so does not help and instead will create more rifts and hatred that could eventually make the situation far much worse than it was in the beginning.

We will never move on if we continue resurfacing negative things that happened in the past. People may argue that justice is about making others account for their mistakes, but there are those of us who believe that it entails all stakeholders playing their role(s) to ensure that a repeat of the same does not occur (Race Power of An Illusion). So, if the accountability referred to does not entail people coming together to bury the hatchet and move on as one regardless of their racial affiliations – then my answer is NO; I neither support nor think that people should be held responsible for their past discriminations. What is done is done, get over it and make a better tomorrow for each American and the coming generations.

**Section 3**

After watching the video and reading the articles, I believe that there is a connection between race and health status. The *Racial Disparities in Health Care* article provides concrete evidence in support of the above contention. According to the article, patients often feel that the quality of health care services they receive are significantly influenced by stereotypes and misperceptions that exist in the medical field due to racial differentiation (1). Furthermore, this discriminatory attitudes among physicians towards patients of a different culture or race have been linked to various instances of misdiagnosis and improper treatment in America (Racial Disparities in Health Care 5). At the same time the article on *How Racism is Bad For our Bodies*, indicates that racial discrimination can lead to many physical and emotional problems which imminently affects the individual’s health status.

For example, differences in race have resulted in discrimination in America and other parts of the world since time immemorial. From a health perspective, scholars indicate that discrimination is positively correlated with the increase in the risk of developing health issues such as depression, stress, hypertension, anxiety, cardiovascular attacks, and stress among others (How Racism is Bad For our Bodies). All these person’s health status negatively. Again, the video points out that race in the past and now significantly determined an individual’s occupation and income. Scholars inform that the modern-day white American is twice richer than his/her non-white counterpart (Race Power of An Illusion). By implication, this means that the wealthy whites can seek better and advanced health care services, unlike the poor non-whites. Therefore, there is a significant connection between race and health status.