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Soc 203s

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Module 4 Discussion

Original Post

Imagine you have been tasked with choosing an artifact for inclusion in a time capsule. The time capsule will be opened in 2107 for the 500th anniversary of the settlement of Virginia by British colonizers in 1607. Specifically, you have been tasked with choosing an artifact that exemplifies the status of racial thinking and inter-race relations in the U.S. in the year 2023. You can choose any cultural artifact, including, but not limited to, a photograph, a film, a song, a news story, a music video, an advertisement, a piece of fine artwork, or a piece of literature. You are also asked to include a brief written explanation for why you chose that artifact and how it relates to U.S. history more broadly. a 2+ sentence description of how the artifact demonstrates the social construction of race and/or racial categories; a 2+ sentence description of how the artifact demonstrates how inter-racial relations have changed **and** remained the same between 1607 and 2023; and a 1 sentence description of the artifact;

<https://www.politifact.com/article/2021/jan/08/black-lives-matter-protests-and-capitol-assault-co/>

My artifact, a 2021 article, analyzes the double standard in law enforcement's response to the individuals who attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021, and their response to the Black Lives Matter protesters during the summer of 2020, side by side.

The article illustrates inter-race relations in the U.S. in 2023 by bringing awareness to the impacts constructed racialization and inequitable power dynamics, have on the relationship between racial groups, especially between white and black groups in our society. Marginalized groups face systemic and structural racism which stems from implicit or explicit bias, stereotypes, and prejudice. While there were several distinct differences between the two events, my artifact's side-by-side analysis showcases the double standard in law enforcement's treatment of societal resistance by examining their response to black crowds next to their response to white crowds.

During the summer of 2020, BLM protesters, who were majority people of color, faced unprecedented levels of over-policing, force, and violence at the hands of law enforcement despite their peacefulness. The majority white rioters who stormed the Capitol were met with under-policing and de-escalation tactics despite acting violently and unlawfully. This directly correlates to the social construct of racial categories by exemplifying the negative impact of racialization and racial thinking, and how stereotyping and biases towards individuals or groups create a pathway to racism and discrimination.

My artifact demonstrates inter-racial relationships between 1607 and 2023 by acknowledging the progression of racial conflict between black and white groups throughout history. U.S. society was built on fundamentals and policies that advantage white groups by disadvantaging black groups. Due to the power dynamic in favor of white groups, marginalized groups are undervalued by society, creating inequitable treatment and racism. In the article, the stigmas and biases placed on black communities resulted in racial inferiority which increased levels of violence, oppression, and injustice towards the BLM protesters. This is due to white dominance which allowed Capitol rioters to be met with underwhelming force, benefiting from white privilege. The high levels of racial tension make it seem like the dynamics of inter-racial relationships haven't changed over the years, however, the diverse make-ups of the BLM protests demonstrate society's progression towards antiracist discrimination.

Reply Posts

Find two people who chose a different artifact from you and a) discuss what you perceive to be the strengths of their artifact and/or explanation, and b) make one recommendation for how their explanation could be revised to more accurately describe racial thinking and/or inter-race relations in the U.S. in the year 2023. For full points, your recommendation **must** be meaningfully rooted in concepts and ideas from this week's reading. Please make sure that your recommendation is polite and productive. In other words, it should be focused on strengthening their argument rather than tearing it down.

Hi Lauren! I thought your artifact did a great job portraying the current environment of inter-race relations within the US by showing the diverse makeup of concert attendees. Your explanation compared inter-race relations around 1607 with inter-race relations of present-day society. Your artifact also showed positive inter-group relationships and how we've grown into a more inclusive society. Another strength of your artifact and explanation is your mention of how even in today's society, members of racial groups tend to gravitate toward other members of the same group. One recommendation for how your explanation could be revised would be to include that the majority of the attendees are white. This more accurately describes inter-race relations in the US today by highlighting that whiteness is still the dominant racial group within our society. The prevalence of white spaces explains why members of racial groups feel more comfortable interacting with other members of the same racial group.

Hi Emma! I thought your artifact and explanation did a great job describing inter-race relations in the US by uncovering the negative effects of racial thinking. The movie highlights the traumas faced by the Black community due to the unequal power dynamic between white and black groups. A strength of your artifact is that it gives viewers a first-hand perspective on how stigmas and racial biases negatively impact the lives of black individuals. Your artifact portrays the prejudice and discriminatory practices used by law enforcement that encourages violence toward members of the Black community. Your explanation did a great job explaining that while the movie was fictitious, police brutality is a real threat to members of the black community. One recommendation for

how your explanation could be revised is to include how Black parents are forced to teach their kids to protect themselves from mistreatment from law enforcement at a young age. I think this would further exemplify the detrimental effects that racial thinking has on black individuals within the US today.