In the horror film *Get Out*, Chris and Rose, an interracial couple, go to meet Rose's parents at their country estate for the first time. In the opening scene, they hit a deer and report it to the police. When the cop arrives, he questions Chris's presence and asks for his ID even though Rose was the driver. When they get there, Chris notices an African American housekeeper and groundskeeper that look oddly out of place. This observation on top of the race related questions and remarks the family makes, causes him to feel uneasy. Missy, Rose's mom, forces Chris to undergo a hypnotherapy session to "cure" his smoking habit. This hypnotherapy session sends Chris into a dark void of his subconsciousness, or "The Sunken Place." Moving forward into the movie, wealthy whites gather for an annual party at the estate and begin to take an interest in Chris's physique and talents. Chris recognizes other African Americans around, but they all seem to be acting in a rehearsed manner. The party begins to take a turn when the whites start auctioning Chris. You guessed it, Chris had the highest bid. Chris was bought to give his eyes and artistic abilities to an old, blind man named Jim. The rest of the movie showcases Chris trying to escape this nightmare he has been placed in. Without sharing all the details it is easy to note that there are racist codings

within this movie. African American media creators use coding within their pieces to represent slurs and poor treatment of the past. These codes are easily discovered by other African Americans who are well educated on the topic and experience years of turmoil from it. Donald Glover uses this system of coding in his music video "This is America." There are many examples of coding within the video, but I will only touch on a few. For example, Glover strikes a similar pose such as this one throughout the video. This pose is an imitation of an image of T.D. Rice in 1833. Rice created the character Jim Crow and essentially created the use of blackface. These creations were written off in entertainment as authentic black culture and affected African Americans in many ways. There are multiple scenes throughout the video with the use of guns. These scenes are graphic and unrelated to the lyrics of the video, but they illustrate the message of gun violence happening in black communities. Glover captures the antagonizing of African Americans typically done by whites. The flash of a hooded person riding a horse in the background is a reference to the lynching of African Americans. Typically the KKK, a racial hate group, would disguise themselves in hoods and ride on horses to attack their targets. The lynching of thousands of African Americans was a means of

social control during that time. These lynchings were directed at African Americans who were seen as successful and independent. There are many other messages in this video, some that might be hidden so well they might require research to spot. If you are interested at all, I highly recommend finding an analysis on this music video. Jordan Peele takes this same approach of coding in his film *Get Out*. The recurring imagery of deer is a coded racial slur African Americans faced in the past. In the opening scene, Chris and Rose hit a deer. Upon Rose's father hearing this he responds by saying, "I say, one down, a couple hundred thousand to go. No, I don't mean to get on my high horse, but I'm telling you I do not like the deer. I'm sick of it. They're taking over. They're like rats. They're destroy the ecosystem. If I see a dead deer on the side of the road, I think to myself that's a start." There are frames throughout the movie that show the trophy deer hanging on the wall of the estate. These images of deer are subtle, but nonetheless have a deeper meaning. In the late 1800s black males were seen as dangerous and untamable slaves that must be curbed because of the sexual instincts that would pervert the daughters and wives of the white masters. Post- Reconstruction Era, the term "Black Buck" was used to reinforce this stereotype. "Black Bucks" were usually muscular

men, who attempted to defy the will of the whites and were a menace to American society. The most striking part of this stereotype is the assumption that black males would act sexually and violenty towards white females- and only them. This character of the sexualized black man who existed to torment white females has become a fixture in media. The term is not only referenced by the frames of deer in the film, but also in the relationship of Chris and Rose. In conclusion, the imagery of deer in Jordan Peele's horror film *Get Out* is a code that symbolizes the racial slur "Black Buck" used to antagonize black males in the Post-Reconstruction era.