White Privilege

White privilege to me is walking my high school halls and not being stopped and questioned about my intentions and asked to see my pass. It is walking into a store and not being followed around with the fear that I might steal. I was born white and I have privileges in society that other races do not have just because of my skin color. Whether or not we want or are aware of the privileges’ white people are given, society has placed and developed benefits to being white. White privilege is not suppressing another race; it is the benefits one receives because they are white.

Being white would have altered both Wes Moore’s lives immensely. Bad Wes Moore would possibly not have ended up with a lifetime sentence in jail. Wes would run into fewer encounters with the police, thus having a better criminal record. Wes would receive more attention in school, thus possibly completing high school. Staying in school would make getting jobs easier and keep him off the streets. However, being white will not automatically fix all of Wes problems; it would just give white privilege. Wes grew up in a neighborhood struck with poverty. Wes did what his environment showed him how to do. While being white may have given Wes some benefits, I think Wes still would have ended up living a life full of poor choices.

Good Wes life would have changed for the worse in this case. Wes would not have an impact for racial equality if he had been white. He would not currently traveling and advocating for blacks. He would have received less praise by society for his accomplishments. If Wes was white he might not have had all of the terrible experiences that shaped him into the amazing person he is today. Wes would not be the person he is today if he was white.

Law enforcement officers view black people as thugs, rapists, and criminals. Multiple murders of innocent blacks are committed with small to no repercussions. Over and over people in power have dismissed the underlining idea that law enforcement officers have a predetermined bias of black people. This bias is acted upon without a blink of an eye. Innocent or not innocent, white or black, male or female, a life is a life, and should never be taken away.