

Aiyana Henson

Podcast Reflection Essay

April 20, 2021

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Overall I really enjoyed working with the group mates I was assigned to do this podcast project with. They were easy to get along with and were a great help when it came to solving problems we came across. Despite the busy schedules we all had we were able to find a way to meet in the library every other week to work on the research we needed for our podcast. Everyone was able to contribute the same amount of work which I appreciate when it comes to group projects. As a team, we were also able to learn cohesively which serves as a great way to retain information.

In regards to the challenges we came across, I believe we were able to settle them in a civil manner. Most of the time the problems we had dealt with how we planned to structure the podcast. Each of us would propose a possible solution and after having a discussion we picked whichever we felt was the best. There was one instance that I remember where we were stuck trying to figure out how to address stereotypes in the media. Thankfully Jamyl suggested we touch bases on an article he found that talked about the misrepresentation of black women in tv/movies. We took up his proposal which made a great contribution to our podcast.

I've always been understanding of people's beliefs and morals so when having conversations that revolve around topics such as race, it can be difficult to agree on some things. I can admit I was hesitant at first discussing race with peers at a PWI , but after having great conversations with my group mates; I realized it is possible to have these sorts of discussions in a civil way. With politics today it can be a challenge to express one's feelings in fear of being opposed.

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Since I've started my college career I have noticed my classes correlate a lot more than they did in highschool. I would end up going over some of the same lessons I had with Dr. Grether in *Race and Racisms* with Professor Riden who taught *Inequality and Differences*. This was a great way for me to study more on topics that were covered in both classes such as the origin of racial ideologies. With the knowledge I developed about how race is a social concept, I was able to apply it to understanding race's influence in the media.

In *Inequalities and Differences* we would often discuss how race is a huge factor in our society. It influences a great amount of our everyday lives and has started movements that are aimed towards fighting for equality. By bringing awareness to the problems of racial injustice there's a great possibility of receiving change for a better society. I believe creating this podcast was a great way of discussing the relevant problem of racism in media. Media has become very influential over the past few years. By discovering the backstories of the ads we come across, it brings light to the problems we still have in our society. This podcast project was a great way to apply the knowledge we gained from other courses here at Longwood.

One thing that I've learned about race while working on this project is it has a great effect on the advertisement and entertainment industry. I never realized how much discrimination surrounds the programs we view and it's something that shouldn't happen. I never knew the full history of Aunt Jemima but after researching articles about the character I was enabled to connect what I've been learning in class with the real world. After having the opportunity of taking this course I plan to use the knowledge I've gained to inform others who may not be aware of the social stigma that is race, racism and ethnicity. I didn't know how much of an effect

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race had on our everyday interactions. I'm aware that racism is very alive and relevant in the world today, but I do have hope for change in the future. There are advocates fighting for the civil rights of all individuals.

I believe BLM has become the modern Civil Rights Movement. Brave people have taken to the streets to march and stand their ground for not tolerating police brutality. This past summer with the death of George Floyd my eyes were open to how much change we need in our society. With the education I've received I plan to be an ally. I can do this by informing my peers about racism and hopefully I'll be able to help change their views.