Steven Schultz

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Fruitvale Station

Prejudice is defined as a negative attitude or perception toward an entire category of people and is often expressed through ethno-phaulisms. This is something that has been plaguing our world for centuries. Over the years many studies have been conducting measuring prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and racial profiling in the United States. It has been proven that if a black person and a white person both commit a crime, then the black person is more likely to get arrested for this issue. It has also been proven that people feel more nervous and threatened when they are around black people than white people. They are more cautious and on their guard because African Americans are more linked to crimes than white people are. Studies have been done that the highest violent crimes rates are linked to poverty that have a high African American population. Obviously just because studies show that crimes are linked more to African Americans, that doesn’t mean that all of them are bad people. There are bad people and good people of all race throughout the world; however, many people do not see it that way. In 2013 a film was published titled *“Fruitvale Station”* that was made to bring awareness to discrimination to African Americans.

The firm brings awareness to the death of Oscar Grant, a twenty-two-year-old man who was killed in 2009 by BART police officer Johannes Mehserles. Leading up to this point in the film director Ryan Coogler shows his audience what kind of person Grant was and how he lived. He lived in the poorer part of Oakland with his girlfriend and his son. Coogler shows that Oscar Grant’s life is a little bit of a struggle at first. He just lost his job and he got caught cheating on his girlfriend; however, the film still brings out the positives on Grant. He is a very caring person. The film stresses his love for his family as he is willing to fight off guards just to get a hug from his mom when he was in jail, how he is willing to help his sister pay for rent even though he just lost his job, and how is always so loving and genuine with his daughter. The film displays him and being a man with a lot of struggles, but also being as positive as can be. The film really took a turn when Grant and his friends got into an altercation on the subway. Grant and his friends were not the ones that started the altercation, but they were the ones the police were looing for because they were African Americans and it was assumed they were the ones starting the trouble. Grant and his friends clearly did not do anything wrong, they were only trying to defend themselves; yet, police were detaining them. Grant and his friends were getting pretty annoyed because they knew they did nothing wrong; however, the police were keeping them there because they were African Americans at the wrong place at the wrong time. Eventually, the cops were getting tired of Grant resisting their orders, so they unlawfully shot him in the back and killed him.

I believe this firm shows a very powerful message that pertains heavily to our everyday lives. Being a white citizen, I do not have to personally deal with this issue; however, I know many people that have. Many people in todays society are prejudged by the color of their skin, which leads to less opportunities coming their way and more work for them. Discrimination is a topic I believe most people know exist; however, they still need to know how serious of an issue it still is.