Read the article and respond to the questions:

Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, and Patricia Warren. 2009. “Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling.” *Contexts* 8(2): 34-39. Article link: [racial profiling](https://smsu.ims.mnscu.edu/d2l/common/dialogs/quickLink/quickLink.d2l?ou=3506197&type=content&rcode=MNSCU_LOCA-22023921)

Write a 300-word summary of the article in your own words.  
 ‘Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling’ is a really indepth article about how there was and still is, a deep-seeded racism and stereotyping prejudice in America and what its’ remedy is. The article begins with a brief peak in the history of this country where the colored individuals would be entitled to be a slave. This was slowly challenged and would take us many reforms like Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act to come where we are at right now. But even in this day and age, we still hear news regarding racial profiling and stereotyping which is very disheartening. This article tries to point out the causes and the remedy for these types of behaviours/practices/attitudes.  
 Majority of the Americans have racial profiling built in them, be it history or the environment that they grow in. This has been a known fact, but recently there has been a growing trend of police crimes based on racial profiling and discrimination. This problem extends to organizational practices involving the federal and local government. Multiple sociological research have been conducted and they all converge to the fact that this problem has roten our institutions which in turn encourages further racial profiling, stereotyping and racial prejudice. Racial based policing has incurred growing mistrust in police administration in the minority community. The article then provides a statement i.e “these problems can be the tool communities use to confront and eliminate it”, which is really intriguing and provides solutions further down the article.   
Profiling and its problems  
 The article presents how the DEA and its pipeline (1984) had initiated the connection between race and crime. During that time, drug couriers was a term coined to denote the people with out-of-state plate, dark skin, young minority men with gold jewelry. These couriers were the prime suspect for police harassment and discrimination with routine traffic stops and random checks. After North Carolina Highway Patrol analysis, bunch of lawsuits and police brutality cases against colored people, it was proven that the searches based on race were not leading to more drug seizures.  
How bias is produced  
 Crime rate, patrol and racial profiling are all directly proportional to each other and that is how bias is produced. The war on drugs and crimes of 1980 and 1990s saw growth in aggressive monitoring of minority neighbourhood and thus creating the racial bias and stereotypes among police officers and the media as a whole.   
Bias among individual officers  
 The article talks about conscious and unconscious bias regarding racism and stereotyping. Less than 10% of whites would admit of being racist and three quarters admitting to being anti-black. Us as humans like to simplify informations and it's much easier to manage social interactions using characteristics such as sex and race. This sociology of human nature provides for racial/sexual biases and this seems to explain the nature of bias among officers.  
Strategies for change  
 Education and exposure to those who do not fit the stereotypes is a good strategy for change. People should be held accountable for their actions, especially when it comes to equal employment opportunities for all races. That is why lawsuits against corps, cities and states are all providing ‘proactive’ and ‘reactive’ solutions to the racial disparity that still lingers.  
Justice in Obama era  
 It's no surprise as to Obama being the first colored president of the Unites States which itself is a big step to accepting the closing gap in racial disparity. However, his term was more to than just ending racial bias in the U.S. His oath to end terrorism overshadowed the efforts that he has put forth to end racial profiling and stereotypes.   
 Overall, this article is a little outdated and recently there has been a growing number of changes, both good and bad when it comes to hate crimes and racial profiling. The authors of this article provide a good base line to where this bias started and how we can end it but, to really end racism or stereotyping, is a very difficult and time consuming patch. We are seeing a decreased number of police racial profiling cases and in time education, exposure to the different races and misfits to the stereotypes will end all these bias.

2. The authors contend that conscious prejudice is not a common source of racial bias in police stops. What is their reasoning, and what do they discuss as the source of bias?  
 Conscious prejudice isn’t a common source of racial bias in police stops as it does not influence a police officer who is checking the traffic flow and pulling speeders over based on the speed detector/radar. They do not pull people over for being black or white and thus it becomes irrelevant until they do pull them over. The authors however discuss the source of bias being the type of neighborhood and location. They mention the fact that the places with more criminal activities tend to be the place where minority resides and thus amplifies the aggressiveness for them to be biased. For example, the blacks in a minority neighborhood are more likely to be stopped than whites which is obviously racially motivated.

3. What can you take away from this article?  
 This article is a great source as to how we got to where we are at in this current racial profiling debate. Americans have both conscious and unconscious racial bias towards the colored people which dates back centuries. However, with the recent movement of racial equality, the number of racial hate crimes, racial profiling by police and stereotyping has gone down significantly. This article has educated me extensively when it comes to how this bias is produced and how we can get rid of it. This article contends a very straightforward solution to the racial bias that still exists, which is to educated, explore races and exposure to minorities that don’t fit the stereotype. This shall help erode our unconscious bias which we get offended when confronted. It can also be contained if people are held accountable for their decisions. At last, i really do hope that the future is free of any kind of racism or stereotypes and we shall strive to end these bias, be it conscious or unconscious, from our hearts.

Works Cited:

Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, and Patricia Warren. 2009. “Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling.” *Contexts* 8(2): 34-39