

We Learn Together: Black Lives Matter!

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This presentation explains the importance of the Black Lives Matter Movement, what it stands for, and aims to give the audience a better understanding on why African Americans feel the way they do.

Associated learning concepts: (Critical Race Theory, Cultural Identity Theory, Social Justice)

Critical Race Theory: Race, social injustices, and the law are three of the most prevalent topics within this presentation. Black Lives Matter is a movement that has thrived in response to police brutality, racism, mistreatment of African Americans, and etc.

Cultural Identity Theory: Day in and day out, African Americans yearn to be heard and understood. Each day they want to feel a sense of belonging; cultural identity theory refers to a person's sense of belonging within a culture, religion, language, and etc.

Social Justice: The Black Lives Matter Movement is a direct response to social injustices and the movement seeks to fight for justice when it comes to the criminal justice system and in society as a whole. This movement aims to advocate for the better treatment of African Americans from civilians and Police Officers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- *What is Black Lives Matter and what does it symbolize?
- *Tommie Smith and John Carlos, 1968 Olympics
- *Black Lives Matter Political Slogans
- *End of Jim Crow era
- *Black Lives Matter-critics or ignorance?
- *Breonna Taylor
- *George Floyd
- *Conclusion- Final Thoughts.
- *Citations

WHAT IS THE BLACK LIVES MATTER (BLM) AND WHAT DOES IT SYMBOLIZE?

- *Black Lives Matter is an international movement, in which African Americans and activists of the African American community campaign against the violence of African Americans.
- *In this organization, everyone comes and works together; meaning that there is no hierarchy or formal structure.
- *Whether it be by social media posts or protesting, one of the main goals of #BLM is to participate in tactics that make (white) people so uncomfortable that they address the issues that African Americans face daily.

BLACK LIVES MATTER POLITICAL SLOGANS

- *Whether you are attending a #BlackLivesMatter protest or, just scrolling on social media, there are a few coined terms that you are likely to see and/or hear that are symbolic to #BLM.
- *“Black Lives Matter!”- This is the most heard and famous phrase that is often chanted at protests or placed in social media bios. It is straight to the point and easily remembered since it is the name of the movement.
- *“Hands up, Don’t Shoot!”- This phrase was inspired by Michael Brown. Brown was killed at the hands of the police but, he already had his hands in the air and was complying with the police.
- *“I Can’t Breathe!”- This phrase was originally coined after the Eric Gardner case, Gardner died at the hands of the police as well, he was pinned to the ground, even after explaining that he couldn’t breathe. This phrase became prevalent once again after the George Floyd case. Floyd is captured on video saying he couldn’t breathe; in fact, those were some of his last words he spoke before he died.

TOMMIE SMITH AND JOHN CARLOS-1968 OLYMPICS

- *Tommie Smith and John Carlos were Olympians that stood for and advocated for black power.
- *In the 1968 Olympics, upon receiving their medals, Tommie Smith and John Carlos stood on the podium and raised their black gloved fists during the playing of the national anthem, The Star-Spangled Banner.

*They didn't know it then but, their raised fists would eventually become the Black Lives Matter symbol in years to come.

JIM CROW ERA

*Jim Crow Laws separated Americans based on their race from 1881 to 1964, that means they lasted for 83 years!

*These laws were prevalent in 26 states, that means they existed in more than half of the United States.

*Jim Crow Laws ignited segregation. There were areas, schools, water fountains, movie theaters, etc. that were deemed "all white" or "all black". It was illegal to not participate in segregation.

*These laws aimed to deny freedom and equality to African Americans; as if they hadn't already previously been enslaved and seen as lesser than.

BLACK LIVES MATTER CRITICS

*Recently, the #AllLivesMatter movement emerged to combat the ideologies of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

*What they fail to realize is that the Black Lives Matter Movement IS NOT saying that ONLY black lives matter; but, instead bringing an emphasis to the slaying of black lives, the injustices African Americans face, and why the movement needs help advocating and bringing justice to the African American community.

*Ignorant people are saying that the #BlackLivesMatter Movement is a terrorist group. This is an incorrect assumption because for an act to be deemed "terrorism", there must be a use of violence or a threat of violence in the hopes of a political, religious, or social gain. The Black Lives Matter Movement solely wants to spread awareness so, people can know and fix the problems African Americans are constantly dealing with.

BREONNA TAYLOR

- * “On March 13, 2020, twenty-six-year-old African-American woman Breonna Taylor was killed by Louisville police who were serving a no-knock warrant on the wrong house. “(Africa).
- *At the time of the shooting, Breonna was inside her apartment with her boyfriend sleeping. They thought their home was being burglarized, there was no indication that it was the Police Department since, they didn’t knock. Her boyfriend fired shots thinking he was protecting his family.

GEORGE FLOYD

- *George Floyd was a 46-year-old, African American man who was killed at the hands of the police.
- *His death was captured on camera and ignited the Black Lives Matter movement to fight for justice now more than ever.
- *A white police officer, Derek Chauvin, kneeled on Floyd’s neck for 8 mins and 46 secs!

CONCLUSION

- *To conclude, the Black Lives Matter Movement solely wants to educate and spread awareness on the injustices that African Americans are faced with. Some of these injustices include, police brutality, longer and/or unfair prison sentences, and more.
- *This movement is in no way trying to say that only black lives matter, because that isn’t true. Certainly, everyone's life matters, the problem is that the lives of African Americans have become too disposable; especially, at the hands of the police.
- *Police brutality victims lost their lives at the hands of the police, the least we can do is give the, justice.

WORKS CITED

- *Africa, Andre David. Breonna Taylor. N.p., Independently Published, 2020.
- *Godsil, Rachel D. "Race nuisance: The politics of law in the Jim Crow era." *Mich. L. Rev.* 105 (2006): 505.
- *Tischauser, Leslie Vincent. *Jim crow laws*. ABC-CLIO, 2012.

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