

# Reflection Journal

## Day One

*Focus: Why does reporting on a story involving minority communities tend to focus on the negative? Is that [always] the case? Is that [always] a bad thing? Is the truth always negative? Who (or what) determines what "truth" is?*

Reporting on a story involving minority communities tends to focus on the negative aspects I feel like generally because there are a lot of negatives. The minority community is responsible for the majority of the crime in inner cities, like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Although most of the crime committed by black and brown communities are minor property crimes, the fact that these crimes are happening, it will be easy for the media to create an image to show that these African Americans are bad. Some of these images are typical racist tropes that tie back to the reconstruction era of the United States. But the media always focusing on the negative is not always a good thing because it sometimes does create the image that I was just talking about. It also creates an image within our own community that it is hopeless to fight for change. I say that because you can't fight for change for others if they do not want change for themselves, which gets me to my next point. The truth sometimes is that people in these communities want change, which is something positive. And a lot of these people who want change, want to voice their opinion peacefully. That is something that is positive that does not get a lot of media attention. And it does not get much media attention because I believe that the head of the media corporations are trying to push an agenda that is far from the truth. Speaking of truth, the people who decide what is true, and what is not true is the people who live in what is true, not corporations.

# Reflection Journal

## Day Two

*Focus: You will scan a local news publication. What sorts of stories do you notice? Which ones seem absent? Why do you believe this is the case?*

To bear witness to a story is to tell the truth, even when people do not like the truth. For me personally, I think that I will start telling the truth in my life by showing or illustrating examples of the truth. On the topic of police brutality, it is not garnered enough attention. You might be thinking that it was literally dominating the news throughout the majority of summer. Hear me out. Prominent names that come up, like Elijah McClain, or Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Jacob Blake, Micheal Brown, etc. These are just a small fraction. If we want to convince people how much of an issue this is, we need to highlight how big this issue truly is that is not getting enough attention from the media. Speaking of the media, I was just reading an article about the Coronavirus in Georgia. The article was talking about how despite the fact that Georgia is doing better than the majority of the states in the US, we are not doing good, and we could do much worse within the next 3 to 4 weeks because Thanksgiving is coming up. Despite the poor news, I think that the author of the article was bearing witness to the coronavirus in Georgia. I say this because the author also involved someone who has experience in this field of public health, despite what 20 percent of the population would like to tell you. Whatever field that you are in, you have more experience in that field than someone who has not and will never be in the field. And because of that, we need to listen to those who know more about the coronavirus than people who do not have experience in diseases (President Trump). But these are just my thoughts.

# Reflection Journal

## Day Three

*Focus: What biases do I have? How did I come to them? If I were honest with myself, has my gaze impeded my ability to see certain groups in a favorable way? What do I need to do to reframe my gaze, so that I can look upon everyone justly?*

I personally think that one of my biases is among trump supporters. I have a brother who is a trump supporter who I talk to every week, and I think that I look at most trump supporters as people who are willfully ignorant. I think I came to those biases by two things. One, my opinion on Trump has gotten significantly worse within the last year. And two, probably because of the amount of times I constantly watch a lot of trump supporters who are willfully ignorant. So I think because of the amount of times that I just see ignorance coming from that group, sometimes including my brother, I have been able to form such bias towards this group. Because of the bias I have against trump supporters, it has hindered my ability to see that group in a positive light. Sometimes I thought that if you voted for Trump, then you are ignorant. No matter what reason you voted for him, you were ignorant. And as I think about it, I do not think that is the case any more. Now depending on the reason why you voted for him this time, I might call you ignorant, but I am trying to open myself to the idea that people would have a good reason to vote for trump. One thing I do need to do in order to reframe my gaze is to try and learn their perspective, learn how they see things. You never really know how much you agree with someone who does not have the same political beliefs as you until you have a conversation with them. One thing I can tell you is that you might be surprised how much you agree with them. There is also a possibility that you and the other person will agree on nothing. But hey, you guys had a conversation. That is something we need more of today coming from both sides of the isle.

# Reflection Journal

## Day Four

*Focus: What is the connection between joy and justice?*

Hmm... Although we talked about this in class, I still had to think about this for a little bit.

The connection between Joy and Justice in my opinion is that you can find joy while fighting for justice. As we are fighting for justice, it does not have to be sorrow. You can find Joy while fighting for justice. For example, the times that celebrities hold concerts to raise money or awareness for certain issues, like police brutality, or like climate change, there is joy to be found in that. People are dancing, drinking, singing, having fun, all while justice is being fought. I know that in class, with Melissa Bunni Elian explaining her pictures and article on AFROPUNK, an organization that brings out the best of black culture, you can see people having fun, while pushing for justice, While pushing for equality. And one thing that we need to take more joy and pride in is how far African Americans have come from. 2019 marked the 400th anniversary of the colony of Jamestown Virginia, where it is believed that was the first colony in what is now the United States that also brought slaves. We were only let free from chains and white masters roughly 150-160 years ago, and we only had the Voting Rights act and Civil Rights act signed 55 years ago, assuring the right to vote and the dismantling of Jim Crow Laws in the south. And knowing that we have come so far, that should bring us joy and ambition to finish the work that our ancestors worked on. John Lewis died a few months ago, losing his fight to stage 4 brain cancer. And although his death was sad, we should honor him by continuing the fight he spent decades participating in. And while we do that, we should find some sort of joy.

# Reflection Journal

## Day Five

*Focus: What specific idea, quotation, or text, from the week, keeps you thinking the most? Why?*

The idea that keeps me thinking the most is my biases towards people. I say this because I was always too busy judging other people's biases to the point that I overlooked my own biases. Ever since we talked about biases, I have been really thinking about some of the biases I might have. And probably like everyone else, I have some biases. My first bias comes from Trump Supporters. My brother is a trump supporter. He does not like Trump's behavior, but he agrees with a lot of the things he stands on. And I think that I personally group all trump supporters way too much. Not all of them are outright idiots, not all of them believe in the trash he spews, and also not everyone who supports Trump, likes him for trump. Some people support Trump because they do not like the other candidate, like my brother. And I think that I need to think and treat trump supporters as if they are like any other human. I should not really think horrible of them, unless they prove that they are terrible. They are just human beings who support the president. And I should probably treat them as such. At the same time though, some of these Trump supporters also feed into my bias towards them. I just was watching CNN one time with my dad, although I really don't watch it much, and they had a nurse from the state of South Dakota. Putting it into context, the test positivity rate in the state is above 50 percent. So she was explaining that as some of her patients were dying of covid, they were saying that they were not dying from covid, and that Joe Biden will ruin the country, and all of that type of stuff. And to be frank, I don't like it when people just deny that a virus exists, when 250,000 Americans have died from it. Saying that, that is a pretty small population of America.