



The Police in the United States



Teacher Content

Lesson # 1:

- Students will be able to compare and contrast their perceptions of how much governments allocate their budgets to policing and the reality of government funding of policing

Lesson # 2:

- Students will be able to describe the details of how the the Baltimore police utilizes the budget on surveillance technology

Lesson # 3:

- Students will be able to explain how heavy government investment in police funding has resulted in an increase in police militarization

Lesson # 4:

- Students will integrate multimedia or visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

Lesson # 5:

- Students will be able to create a visual informative document that critiques how police departments allocate their budgets.

Do-Now: Describe the police in **one word.**
Justify your response.



What is Black Lives Matter?

Source: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/>

- “#BlackLivesMatter was founded in 2013 in response to the **acquittal** of Trayvon Martin’s murderer.”
 - Movement started when a 17 year old was killed by a man (who was then found not guilty)
- “Mission is to **eradicate white supremacy** and build local power to intervene in violence **inflicted** on Black communities by the state...”
 - Social movement that protests against racism and organizes to stop the government harming Black communities



Source: “History of Black Lives Matter Movement” by Newsweek (2020)



Charged: When someone is brought to trial due to the government accusing them of a crime.

Convicted: When someone is found guilty of the crime

Video Questions

1. **Why does the video demonstrate footage of Martin Luther King talking about police brutality in the 1960s? (0:34-0:42 seconds)**
2. **At the 1:38-1:43 mark of the video, it shows a newspaper reporter saying “it’s the feeling that among many of these people, that Black lives don’t matter.” Why does she say this?**
3. **Since January 2013 to October 2019, how many Black Americans were killed by the US police? How many police officers were charged? How many police officers were convicted? (6:10)**
4. **What does the video show at the start at the 7 minute mark to 7:20? What is the importance of this information?**

Black Lives Matter & US Police Videos (Context)



Source: “A brief history of police impunity in Black Death” by Vox (2020)

Thought question:

- **Why do you think there are so many problems with US policing?**
- **What are some things that the government can do to fix this problem?**
- **What are some things regular people can do?**



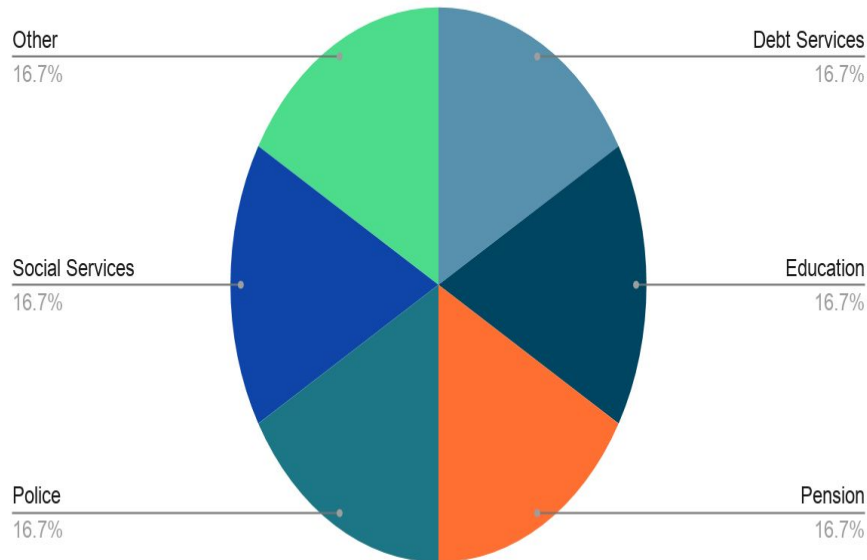
In a “morally just” (good) society, how much money should the city government provide for different services? Your budget is \$90 billion (90,000,000,000).

Example: Dividing everything equally will give 16.7% which is \$15 billion (15,000,000,000)

Different Options

- 1. Debt Service (Paying off money that the city government borrowed a long time ago)**
- 2. Education (Pre K-12, College)**
- 3. Pension (retirement money for people who have worked for a long time)**
- 4. Police Services**
- 5. Social Services (Health care, job training, housing opportunities, and etc.)**
- 6. Other (Transportation, fixing the roads, and more)**

City Budget





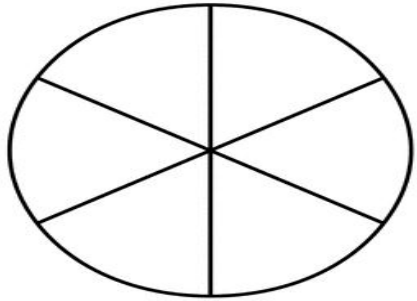
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JAMBOARD LINK

Jamboard Pod 1:

Jamboard Pod 2:

Jamboard Pod 3:





GROUP Budget Models

| | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Debt Services | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Social Services | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Police Services | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Pension | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Police | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Other | \$ | \$ | \$ |



\$6,000,000,000

total budget spent on police services in
New York City (2019)

Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/20/nyregion/defund-police-nypd-budget.html>

Look at the NYC city budget for 2019. What surprised you? What questions do you have?

New York City's total spending in the 2019 fiscal year



Note: The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2019.



Source:

<https://www.statista.com/chart/10593/how-much-do-us-cities-spend-on-policing/>



Look at the police budgets for different US cities.

How Much Do U.S. Cities Spend On Policing?

Total police budget and share of selected cities' general fund expenditure in 2020

■ Total Police Spending ● % of General Fund Expenditure*



* General fund is used to support city services like police, fire and parks, as well as planning, community development and administrative support services.

** Latest Minneapolis data is from 2017

Sources: The Center for Popular Democracy, Law for Black Lives, Black Youth Project 100

- What are the effects of having so much police funding?
- Mini-debate question: Is it appropriate for the police to have this much money? Why or why not?



Exit Ticket

- Share the two most important things you learned about US policing.
- What are 2 questions you have about this topic so far?



Do-Now Image Analysis:

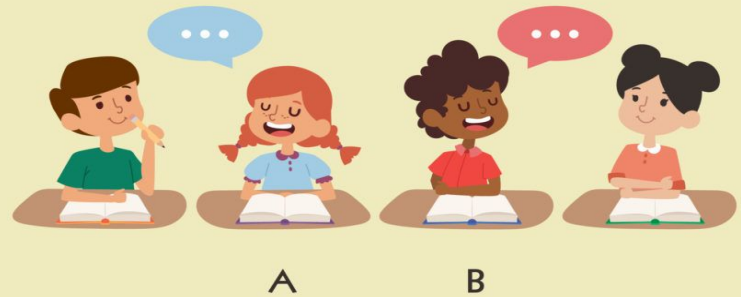
Look at this image.

What do you *observe?* *Infer?* *Wonder (Wh-Questions)?*



Partner Share out (Do-Now) 1 minute each

- **Partner 1 speaks first.**
- **Then partner 2 speaks afterwards**



What are some specific ways the police use their funding?

Video Questions

1. Why do some activists like Joyce Jones support police surveillance planes? (0:35-0:45)
2. Why does other activist like Dayvon Love disagree with the need for police surveillance planes? (1:07-1:26)
3. Baltimore police commissioner Michael Harrison justifies the use of police surveillance planes by saying "There is no expectation of privacy on a public street" (2:02). Explain that statement
4. Reflection question: Is exchanging our privacy worth the price for a sense of "security"?



Source: "US city deploys camera-equipped planes for surveillance" by Al Jazeera (2020)



Article

“Prying Eyes” by J. Cavanaugh Simpson (2020) Baltimore Magazine

<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/prying-eyes>

Text (Annotate)

Hint: Divide the annotation into two parts-
one style for main idea, another style
for key details

On June 6, 2020, thousands of protesters
marched down the streets of Baltimore. These
protesters carried poster images of
unarmed Black men and women killed at
the hands of police: George Floyd, Breonna
Taylor, and many others.

Summarize (in your own words)

Paragraph 1 (Example)

During June 2020, there were many
protests against racial injustice and police
brutality. In the city of Baltimore had
thousands of protesters that occupied the
city streets.

Questions / Inferences / Reactions

Sentence starters:

- WH-Question (Questions)
- I infer / think / believe / assume that...
(inference)
- This information / quote is interesting /
confusing / surprising / etc. because...
(reaction)

Paragraph 1 Question (Example)

How did the police respond to these protests
against police brutality?

Inference (Example)

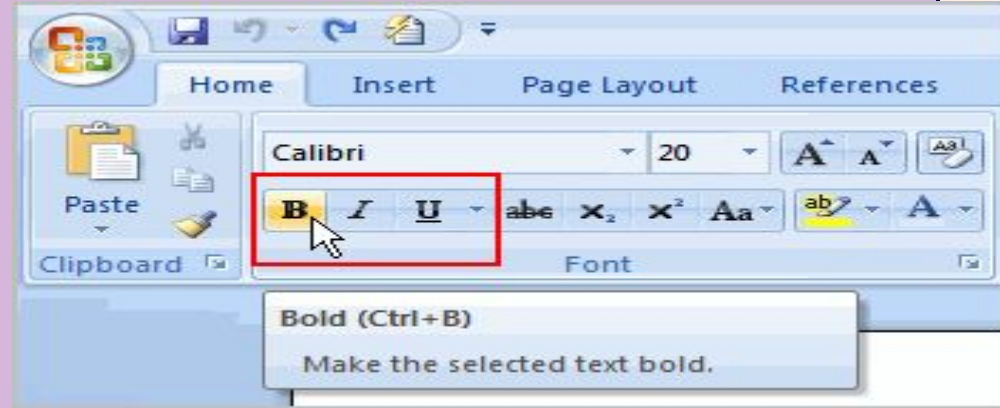
I infer that these protests against police brutality
were happening all over the United States (since
George Floyd was from Minnesota and Breonna
Taylor was from Louisville)

Reaction (Example)

This information connects to me because back in
June 2020 I also participated in the protests in
New York City.

Rest of Class

1. Annotate the text.
1. Summarize each paragraph
1. Write down your reactions / questions / inferences



Source Text: Peter and Elizabeth took a taxi to attend the night party in the city.

While in the party, Elizabeth collapsed and was rushed to the hospital.

Summary: Elizabeth was hospitalized after attending a party with Peter. 



Exit Ticket (Summary Partner Activity)

- 1. 2 Partners (Partner A and Partner B)**
- 2. Partner A asks “What stood out to you in this section?”**
- 3. Partner B picks one section they have completed.**
- 4. When Partner B finishes talking, Partner A summarizes what they heard. (“So what I heard you say was...)**
- 5. Reverse roles**



Do- Now: Image Analysis

What do you **observe?** **Infer?** **Wonder?** (Who / what / when / where / why/ how





Video Questions

How the US Police got their money.

1. According to “defund the police” activists, they want to take money from police departments and invest in _____. (0:17-0:31)
2. Look at the photos of the US police starting from (1:23-1:58). What do you notice?
3. What does the “broken windows theory” mean for policing? Summarize the effects of this attitude on how police officers acted. (2:14-2:34)
4. What is the 1033 program? (2:35-2:58)
5. How much was spent in the country on police funding in 2017?(3:50-3:55)
6. “The average police department spends _____ hours training in use of firearms, self-defense, and use of force tactics... the department only spends _____ hours on conflict management and mediation” (4:40-4:56) What is the significance of this information?



Source:

“How America’s Police Departments Acquired Billions in Funding” (2020)



What are some specific ways the police use their funding? Part 2

Video Questions

1. **What are some ways the US War on Drugs affect the US Police in the 1980s? (0:59-1:30)**
2. **How did the 1033 Program change the US Police? (1:31-1:55)**
3. **When the US withdrew (left) Iraq in 2011, what did the US police do? (3:37-4:02)**
4. **Summarize this quote from President Obama in one sentence: “We’ve seen how militarized gear can sometimes give people a feeling like there’s an occupying force as opposed to a force that’s part of the community that’s protecting them and serving them” (4:43-4:51)**
5. **According to former soldier and police officer Arthur Rizer What are some of the consequences of the US police officers looking like soldiers? (6:02-6:35)**



Source:

“Why America’s police look like soldiers” by Vox (2020)

Article

**Source: “After Pouring Billions Into Militarization of U.S. Cops, Congress Weighs Limits”
by Allison McCartney, Paul Murray, and Mira Rojanasakul (July 2020)**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-police-military-equipment/>

Text (Annotate)

Hint: Divide the annotation into two parts-
one style for main idea, another style for key details

During the spring and summer of 2020, **protesters** have been mobilizing across the country **against racism and excessive force by police**. These protesters have been countered by **law enforcement officers more heavily armed than ever**, including military rifles and helicopters.

Summarize (in your own words)

Paragraph 1 (Example)
2020 has seen a large number of protests against police brutality and racial injustices. During these protests, the police have responded with force, using military equipment such as rifles and helicopters.

Questions / Inferences / Reactions

Sentence starters:

- WH-Question (Questions)
- I infer / think / believe / assume that... (inference)
- This information / quote is interesting / confusing / surprising / etc. because... (reaction)

Paragraph 1 (Example)
Question (Example)
How did the protesters react when they saw the military equipment? Did the military-like response of the police make the situation worse?

Inference (Example)
I infer that the protests were started over the outrage from the unjust deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd.



Exit Ticket

- **Based on these two past lessons, what are your thoughts on police funding?**
- **Which topic would you prefer to explore more— police funding & surveillance or police funding & militarization? Justify your answer**

Do-Now: Look at your video notes and articles from class. Copy and paste the 3 important pieces of evidence about each the topic

○○○

Police Surveillance

Evidence #1 (Source: _____)

Evidence #2 (Source: _____)

Evidence #3 (Source: _____)

○○○

Police Militarization

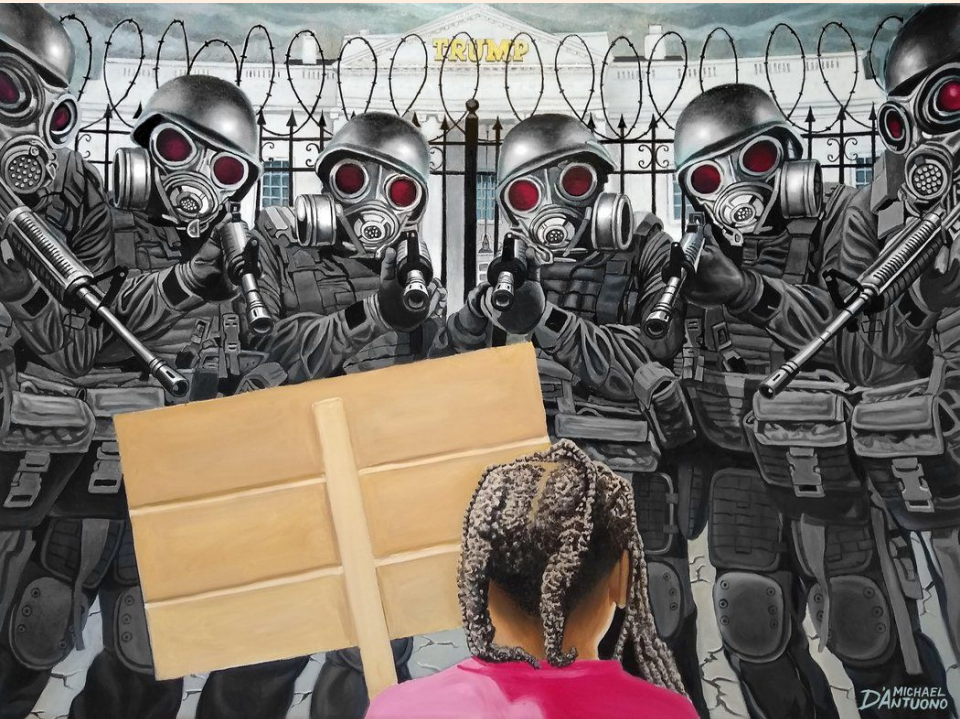
Evidence #1 (Source: _____)

Evidence #2 (Source: _____)

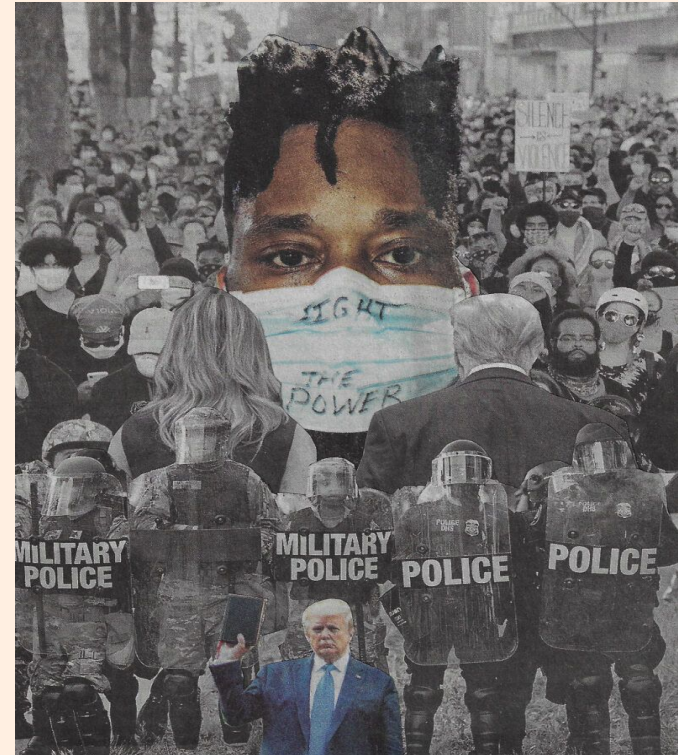
Evidence #3 (Source: _____)

How can art serve as social activism?

Source: Michael D'Antuono, *DomiNation*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 36 x 48 inches



Penny Mateer, "6/3/2020 Lives Buffeted by Terrorism and Injustice"





Understanding “digital zine”

- Zines started off as independently “mini magazines” that was a safe space for people to creatively share their thoughts.
- Zines are accessible to people, especially those who may face systemic barriers to traditional writing/art/journalism opportunities
 - Examples: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), those with limited financial means, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Instagram is now increasingly being used for news, activism, and creative and informative purposes.



**Small group evaluations of different zine examples
(What do you like about them? What do you
dislike about them? What is missing?)**

Example: So you want
to talk about cops in
schools?

By "So you want to talk
about" Instagram
(October 20, 2020)

Example: What's
happening in Lebanon &
What you can do to help

By "Chnge" Instagram
(August
4th, 2020)

Example: The
Importance of Socially
Responsible Cocoa
Production

By "The Slow Factory"
Instagram (September
29th, 2020)

Your final project: Creating a digital zine that combines art & journalism about police budgets.

- Use visual images and quotes to enhance the meaning and argument

Purpose: To share online as a way to educate others

Teacher Example: <https://twitter.com/VincentPham12/status/1320221268961054722>



01

Introduction: US policing in 2020?

You could describe the topic of the section here

02

Analyzing Police Budgets

You could describe the topic of the section here

03

Example #1 Surveillance or Militarization

You could describe the topic of the section here

04

Example #2 Surveillance or Militarization

You could describe the topic of the section here

05

Advocacy call

Give examples of different cities changing their police budgets

06

Reference Page

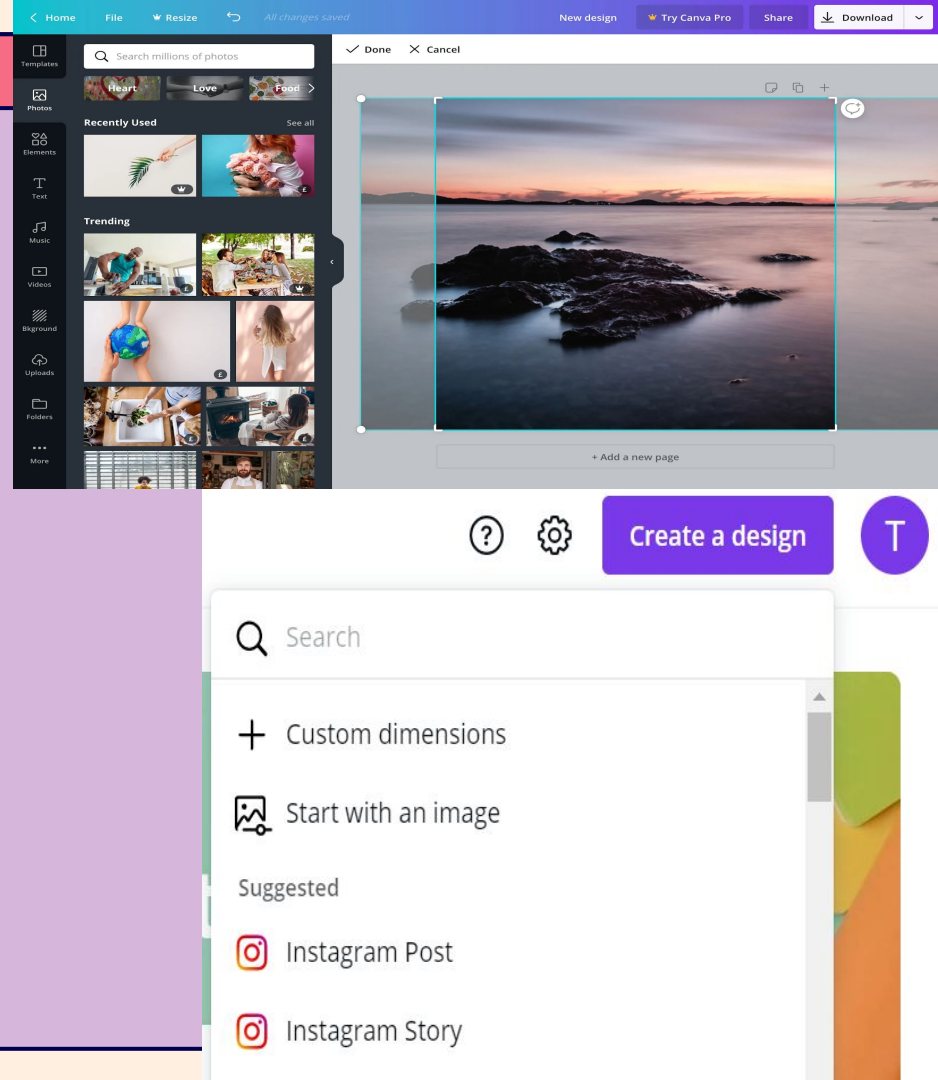
List all the sources you used to create this resource



Go to:

<https://www.canva.com/>

**See attached teacher link
for the rubric**



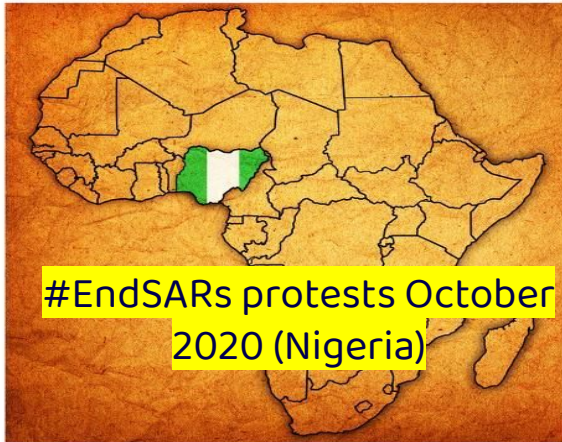
What about police forces in
other countries?

Extension activities

2020: A Year in Police Violence



Protest against monarchy (King and Queen) February to November 2020 Thailand)



#EndSARs protests October 2020 (Nigeria)

Protesting for a new Constitution October 2020 (Chile)



Spring / Summer 2020 (USA)

Resources for background knowledge (Chile)

Chile (Protests against the government)

- [Police officer in Chile accused of throwing teen from bridge](#) (Al Jazeera English, October 2020)
- [Chile: riot police fire teargas after one million people join in anti-government protests](#) (Guardian News, October 2019)

Learn more

◆ [Video link](#)

◆ [Video#2 link](#)

◆ **Thought question: Compared to the US, how are the police acting similarly or differently?**

Resources for background knowledge (Nigeria)

Nigeria (Protesting against SARS and police brutality)

- [Police brutality in Nigeria: what is the #EndSars movement?](#) (Guardian News, October 2020)
- [‘Enough is enough’: Nigerians demand SARS police unit scrapped](#) (Al Jazeera English, October 2020)

Learn more



Video link



Article link



Thought question: Compared to the US, how are the police acting similarly or differently?

Resources for background knowledge (Thailand)

Thailand (Protesting against the monarchy)

- [Thai police fire water cannon at Bangkok protesters](#) (Al Jazeera English, October 2020)
- [Thai police arrest 21 at pro-democracy rally, drawing chants against royal motorcade](#) (South China Morning Post, October 2020)

Learn more



Video link



Article link



Thought question: Compared to the US, how are the police acting similarly or differently?