

Names of group members:

How did the Enlightenment create a system of justice for the few and define a system of justified discrimination for many whose legacy lasts into societies today?

Based on the following quotes, work with your partners to analyze what kind of society would be created if these ideas were followed:

| Quote | Analysis of impact on society |
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| “All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions.” John Locke | People would treat each others as equals. |
| “Always recognize that human individuals are ends, and do not use them as means to your end.” Immanuel Kant | It basically means don't use people, because they aren't the goal. People wouldn't try and exploit others, and instead would really try to listen to them and their problems. |
| “When the body of the people is possessed of the supreme power, it is called a democracy.” Baron de Montesquieu | I think that means the highest form of government is democracy. People wouldn't try to take power for themselves and wouldn't take the voice away from others. |
| “No man has any natural authority over his fellow men.” Jean-Jacques Rousseau | There is nothing ingrained in you that makes you superior to others. People would be equals because they know they aren't superior. There might be more of a communism mindset. |
| “The ignorant man is not free, because what confronts him is an alien world, something outside him and in the offing, on which he depends, without his having made this foreign world for himself and therefore without being at home in it by himself as in something his own. The impulse of curiosity, the pressure for knowledge, from the lowest level up to the highest rung of philosophical insight arises only from the struggle to cancel this situation of unfreedom and to make the world one's own in one's ideas and thought.” Georg Hegel | People wouldn't want to remain ignorant. They would know that the more they know, the more free they are. They would value education and curiosity. |

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| <p>“Our mind is enriched by what we receive, our heart by what we give.” Victor Hugo</p> | <p>Keep your mind open, and open yourself to others. A society like this would be really generous.</p> |
| <p>“Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too.” Voltaire</p> | <p>Think for yourself, and you can’t make people see the world your way. People would be incredibly accepting. (But also a downside is there would be lots of conspiracy theories)</p> |
| <p>“The Rich and Poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all...the Rich and Poor are mingled, or rather associated together as the same community...a manifest Equality as to their Nature and Origin.” Robert Moss</p> | <p>A rich person isn’t any better than a poor person. They are all equal. People aren’t going to favour others because of how they look. There aren’t really going to be any social classes.</p> |

Now read the following quotes from the same people and again analyze what kind of society would be created if these ideas were followed:

| Quote | Analysis of impact on society |
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| <p>“I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor.” Locke</p> | <p>Religion requires belief. Discrimination against other religions because you that they are true.</p> |
| <p>Native “Americans and Negroes can’t govern themselves...Thus they serve only as slaves.” “The virtue of a woman is a <i>beautiful virtue</i>... That of the male sex ought to be a <i>noble virtue</i>. Women will avoid evil not because it unjust, but because it is ugly.” And: “They [women] do something only because they love to, and the art lies in making sure that they love only what is good. I hardly believe that the fair sex is capable of principles.” Kant</p> | <p>Sexism and racism. Society would be pushing down everyone but male whites.</p> |
| <p>“Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans.” Montesquieu</p> | <p>Basically it’s saying they are doing good for the africans, and if you disagree than you are dumb and ignorant. Society would distrust people who believe in equality and those who</p> |

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| | <p>speak up about what they see with the atrocities being done.</p> |
| <p>“The women’s entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women’s duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood.”</p> <p>Rousseau</p> | <p>Girls are just there do make men happy. Society would completely objectify women.</p> |
| <p>African people are “a host of separate, antagonistic national Spirits who hate and fight each other to the death.”</p> <p>Hegel</p> | <p>Basically, africans can’t govern themselves, they’ll just end up killing them. It completely dehumanizes them. As a society it would mean that the colonies in Africa never ended.</p> |
| <p>“Whites made Blacks Into men;...Europe will make Africa into a world.”</p> <p>Hugo</p> | <p>Africa won’t advance without Europe. It again would lead to a society oppressing blacks.</p> |
| <p>“...the measure of their intellects, make a prodigious difference between them and other species of men;and what demonstrates, that they are not indebted for this difference to their climates, is that Negro men and women, being transported into the coldest countries, constantly produce animals of their own species;and that mulattoes are only a bastard race of black men and white women, or white men and black women, as assess, specifically different from horses, produce mules by copulating with mares.”</p> <p>Voltaire</p> | <p>It’s comparing interracial marriage to mules. Basically, you couldn’t marry someone who looked different. And he’s also claiming that their kids are even worse, because they are something that should not exist.</p> |
| <p>Sodomy or bestiality: When the object of the desire is in fact of the opposite sex but is not human. This is contrary to the ends of humanity and against our natural instinct. It degrades mankind below the level of animals, for no animal turns in this way from its own species. These activities make a man unworthy of his humanity; he no longer</p> | <p>He’s claiming that homosexuality makes you into an animal. Actually, it’s worse than an animal. They aren’t even worthy of that. It would be much easier to discriminate because people aren’t seen as humans.</p> |

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| deserves to be a person. From the point of view of duties towards himself such conduct is the most disgraceful and the most degrading of which man is capable. Kant | |
| the poor man “to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him” “in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse.” Robert Moss | It’s claiming that the poor person should be content with their place in the world. They shouldn’t try to become rich. It would probably lead to a feudal system. Like what the kings had been using up to that point. |

1. What do you think accounts for the differences in the same person’s ideas?

They are trying to justify what they see Europe doing. They want to claim the moral high ground, so they try to justify what they see Europe doing, so they change their beliefs to fit what they see. Not the other way around.

2. How will these ideas shape society in any region Europeans interact with?

It’s creating the idea that Europe is superior, and the ideas of the “enlightenment” only enlighten Europe. They will oppress other cultures, because they think they are superior.

3. Do any of these views sound like views you see in our world today? Please find a specific example by doing a quick current event search and summarize it here.

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| Current event title, source and summary | Connect the event to any of the Enlightenment quotes. |
| https://www.npr.org/2021/04/08/985475584/french-senate-voted-to-ban-the-hijab-for-minors-in-a-plea-by-the-conservative-right French Senate Voted To Ban The Hijab For Minors In A Plea By The Conservative Right They are trying to ban anyone under the age of 18 from wearing a hijab. | “I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor.” Locke This really directly relates to this quote because they are looking at other religions and saying that it is completely terrible because they believe something different. They ignore any of the good in the muslim religion and just see the difference. |

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| | And try to ban it because of that. |
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4. At this early point can you see how the Enlightenment actually defined a system of justified discrimination whose legacy lasts into societies today? Explain your answer.

Yes, because they are justifying the terrible things that are going on, and saying that it's okay to oppress people who are different. And people are still using these terrible justifications.

Disruptors to the Historical Narrative

*Who has disrupted the traditional narrative set up centuries ago during the Enlightenment?
How did they do it and what are their stories?*

Before we start, review the quote, history and current event from your work in [Enlightenment Connections to Global Current Events](#) from last class.

Now think for a second: What would it take to change this situation? (Type your response here)

Lift the law that prohibits the carrying/wearing of religious symbols in public places like schools.

Last class we looked at the systemic legacy of discrimination from the Enlightenment. Today we will look at how this narrative is changing. Choose the quote you used last class and investigate through your own searches for a story that examines a person or movement that has worked to change the system. Using the topic that you analyzed for the current connection, find an example of how the tradition is being challenged. Put the link and the summary in the far right column of the chart beside your topic. After summarizing your article, scroll to the bottom to answer the questions.

| Quote | Current Connection | Disruptor's story |
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| <p>“I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor.” Locke</p> | <p>Do Laws Removing French Muslims' Hijabs Remove Them from the Conversation? LINK</p> | <p>https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/don-t-touch-my-hijab-women-in-france-urge/2232803 The article talks about the ban on hijabs that France has. Muslim women obviously do not like this so they are protesting and insisting of the removal of this law. They started a movement called “Don't Touch My Hijab.”</p> |
| <p>Native Americans and Negroes can't govern themselves...Thus they serve only as slaves.” Kant</p> | <p>Practical Hurdles, Cultural Distrust in Native Communities Could Hamper Vaccine Distribution LINK</p> | |

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| <p>“Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans.”</p> <p>Montesquieu</p> | <p>Nigeria’s Invisible Crisis LINK Only read first section and stop at “Nigeria is a nation split in two”</p> | |
| <p>“The women’s entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women’s duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood.”</p> <p>Rousseau</p> | <p>Women and Opportunity in Southern India LINK</p> | |
| <p>Sodomy or bestiality: When the object of the desire is in fact of the opposite sex but is not human. This is contrary to the ends of humanity and against our natural instinct. It degrades mankind below the level of animals, for no animal turns in this way from its</p> | <p>East Africa’s Queer Community Searches for a Home of its Own LINK</p> | |

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| <p>own species. These activities make a man unworthy of his humanity; he no longer deserves to be a person. From the point of view of duties towards himself such conduct is the most disgraceful and the most degrading of which man is capable.</p> <p>Kant</p> | | |
| <p>the poor man “to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him” “in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse.” Robert Moss</p> | <p>This Will Make Us Poorer: Pakistani Metro Brings Uncertainty to Displaced Residents LINK</p> | |

1. Explain how the traditional narrative is being disrupted.

Someone decided to protest so that the law that bans muslim women from wearing their hijabs in school will be repealed. Muslim women started a social media movement and hashtag called “*Pas touche A Mon Hijab*” which translates to “*Don’t touch my hijab.*” They wrote letters to members of the parliament to express their opposition to headscarf

bans and seek their support.

2. Did the article explain any consequences for the person or group doing the disrupting? If so, please explain. If not, explain the reaction to the person or group's efforts.

No, the article did not mention any consequences for the group doing the disrupting. The movement did spark conversation and was able to get a reaction out of some journalists who were astonished over how hijabs are a big issue in France.

3. How did you find the disruptor's story? Explain your investigative process.

I knew that someone would have protested this issue by now because it has been going on for years, so I searched up multiple times different protests that have been going on due to this issue.

4. Do you think the disruptor's actions will be enough to create lasting change? Explain.

The disruptor's actions might be enough to create a lasting change. If they continue seeking supporters and more people that'll stand for the cause then they should be able to get even more of a bigger reaction from the government causing the ban to be hopefully lifted.

In a group discussion answer:

1. What are the qualities of a disruptor? Think of what it takes to be the person or group who changes the historic system.

A disruptor has to be headstrong. They don't necessarily have to be violent, they just want to spark some change.

2. Can you think of any disruptors in Chicago? List your ideas and explain what historical system they were trying to change.

The people who went for the Black Lives Matter protests could be disruptors. They were trying to fight for justice and equal treatment for black people.

3. List strategies you could use to find disruptors in your community or in the larger community of Chicago.

You could always do some research or go on social media to find disruptors in Chicago because there is always some type of movement “trending” and people usually organize protests or petitions or anything that can really cause change.

Immigrant Views of US Racism

For Homework:

Please read this article: Coming to America: It's Not Like the Movie <https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/coming-america-its-not-movie> and answer the following questions:

1. How do some immigrants perceive race relations in the United States before they arrive?
Some immigrants think that racism was “done” after Martin Luther King’s movement. They were always taught that life in America changed after the racial injustice movement and it was now “paradise.”

2. Which legacy from today’s lesson do they see America’s principles based upon?
They see America’s principle based upon slavery. The article stated that “America doesn’t give credit to how slavery has built this country.” They believe that slavery was the backbone of this country and is responsible for most of the unfortunate or sometimes positive events that occur.

3. Which legacy from today’s lesson is still evident in our systems which shocks some immigrants?
I believe the idea of systemic or institutionalized racism still shocks some immigrants. In the article, an unknown person made a noise complaint which caused Nkurunziza to be arrested. He had stated that this experience was “demoralizing” and unexpected. Immigrants come to America not knowing the stereotypes and bias instilled in our institutions so when they experience this type of racism it often comes off as shocking.

4. How can you personally relate to the perceptions in this article? Which America do you see?
I, personally, can relate to where Iftin talked about how most black immigrants don’t perceive racism as something that affects them. He stated that “some immigrant Somali parents perceive BLM as a purely African American issue, that doesn’t involve them.” My family immigrated to the United States a few years ago and as the article mentions, we had no idea of the racial issues here. My parents, most especially my dad thought we were excluded from these problems simply because we weren’t native African Americans. He would always say things like “oh yeah those black people,” but what he didn’t understand was that *we* are “those black people” in the eyes of literally everyone else in America. No one sees your ethnicity just the color of your skin; black.

Issue Exploration Document

Think about any connections you can make from our study of Enlightenment quotes, colonial policy and global current events to your own community or lives. Start with asking yourself some of the following questions:

How do we see the legacy of discrimination in our own communities today?

We are a nation, a state, a city established by the descendants of European settlers. We know that we say we are founded on the ideas of *justice and liberty* but do our systems prove this for *people of color, women, non-Christians, economically disadvantaged and those in the LGBTQ community*?

Do we find the positive perspectives of the Enlightenment thought in our systems today?

How do you become aware of issues that you may not know exist for different groups?

- I want you to do three things before next class.

1-Watch the news or read a local news source to find any issues of **discrimination**.

Summarize the news story here: Taylor, C. Marie. "Huffpost Personal." *I'm A Black Woman Who Had To Change Her Name To Get Ahead Professionally*, Huffpost, 31 August 2020, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/black-woman-name-discrimination_n_5f4ba86fc5b697186e376540 . Accessed 16 May 2021.

A woman looking for a corporate job decided to change her name for a better chance of getting accepted. Originally Charnay Marie Taylor, she decided to only keep the first letter of her first name because it wasn't accepted in society. As Charnay was an extremely uncommon name, when she would go to apply, she would never even get to be interviewed. Once she dropped her first name and only kept the initial, she got an executive job almost immediately. Even after changing her name, to one that's extremely American spelled, people still mispronounced it. This was because of lack of credence for black women. Since then, she has donated her life trying to fight systemic racism and gain back the nearly 2 million dollars she would have had if she wasn't a black woman in the workplace. She wants people to know that discrimination is alive. She connects her name battle and pronunciation errors to the way that enslaved people were brought to this country and renamed by their owner. She wants people to learn how to pronounce her name instead of making up a way to pronounce it. She wants respect because black women deserve it.

2-Watch [How to Interview](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then interview a family member, friend, neighbor, anyone to find out if they have **had personal experiences with witnessing or feeling discrimination in Chicago**.

Summarize what your learned from [How to Interview](#) here:

Plan the order of your questions. You should be able to know a decent amount about your interviewee. If not, you should know a lot about the topic you are going to be asking your interviewee about. Build trust. You should talk to them about what's important first, and then get more specific from there, helping the conversation flow. You should also be able to ask open ended questions, so that your interviewee can give a detailed response and your interview will be more worth viewing. You should avoid making assumptions about people because you never know how they identify and you don't want to make the interview invalid because you label them as something they were not. You should take your time and set your subject at ease. You should also listen for quotes that stand out, so that the emotion and humanity of the story is fully captured.

Personal questions for when I do my project:

- What is an issue that people know about, but deserves further investigation?
- What issue is being overlooked in a big news story right now?
- Which people are doing direct work on the issue I'm writing about?

Summarize your interview here: **My interviewee: My friend/peer NAME REMOVED.**

Yes, she has. She told me about her school life last year, at her CPS middle school. She opened up to me about how she felt discriminated against by her peers, and how they would make fun of her based on her appearance. They would always call her names like "gorilla" up into the point they were saying it every chance they got. They would say she was dark because of her skin color. She asked them to stop but they wouldn't. This made her feel embarrassed of her skin color and uncomfortable in her own skin because of the remarks that were made upon her on a daily basis. She felt embarrassed of her ethnicity too, because a lot of Mexicans and those who are part of the Latinx community have a more tanner toned color.

3-Watch [How to describe what you see](#) (about 8 minutes) and [How to take pictures of what you see](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then look around your own neighborhood, commute to and from school, other neighborhoods, anywhere to think about whether you can see examples of discrimination.

Summarize what you learned from [How to describe what you see](#) here:

First, you should be able to describe how you got there. You should try to take the viewer from the known world to the unknown world. Next, you should write/record details you find about what you're looking at. It is assumed the viewer doesn't have past knowledge about what you're seeing so you should try to educate them about what you're witnessing. Take photographs to capture the things you might have missed. You should use descriptive words and figurative language to describe what you're seeing, to give creative aspect to your description. Think about how old your item is, the color, physical aspect, what is felt when you see it, ect. You should be writing a compelling story about your object whether or not you are familiar with the setting. Experience it as if it was your first time.

If you are familiar with your place you can:

- Describe a journey to this place
- Observe, take notes and capture details
- Make comparisons to describe context
- Use your feelings to describe the place

Summarize what you learned from [How to take pictures of what you see](#) here:

To start, you should plan and research your story in advance. Ask yourself what story you want to tell. Make a list of people you would want to talk to, places you would want to visit, and photographs you would want to take. Make predictions and see if you were right. Remember that images have a great impact on how we view certain things, so make sure you are respectful and view them in the way they are being shown and not how you have viewed them in the past. You should pitch your story to people so that they can grasp why you are so interested and think they would be the perfect person to photograph. Take photos from different angles to capture people's raw emotion. Make sure lots of light is in your photos so the quality is better. Once you have your photos, you (and the people you photographed) should choose which ones you think fit best into the story you're trying to tell. Choose ones that hold impact.

How you can start telling underrepresented stories from where you are right now:

- Plan and research your story. Tell the story of your home and look for things other people might not have in their home.
- Talk to people and try to get them to discuss things that relate to your topic that are meaningful to them. Passion pursues.
- Compose photos with a clear message. What are some things people need to see to understand your topic?
- Choose images that accurately represent your story.

Explain what you saw and how it relates to discrimination-if you don't see anything then explain that:



In the first photo, I saw a painting in my bathroom that made me question what the artist was thinking when they created it. It usually struck me as something beautiful, but now I just see it as mean and cruel to the ones who are carrying the rug. It depicts many different people and entities, but I'm focusing on the person who is on the bench and the people who are carrying

the person away. The person who is on the rug getting carried away is visibly white. The people who are getting carried away are short, black people who look miserable. I think this could possibly be a sign of discrimination because it is just one race that is doing all the work and nowhere else in the photo. It is also just one race who are appearing as powerful.

In the second photo, I used the band-aid I got from my COVID-19 vaccine and put it on my hand to see how the skin tones matched. I think band-aids might represent discrimination because the concept is a “one color is supposed to fit all” situation as band-aids are supposed to blend into your skin color. I’m not sure what color the fabric is, but it looks tan. Personally, the color of my band-aid does not bother me, but for people who care about their skin color and feeling like their is a product made for people like them, this is discrimination.

For my last photo, I thought of a Tiktok content house I liked back in March 2020. I remember thinking about how they are all one race, and the lack of racial diversity. It is glamorizing people of one race (white) so that they become the standard for humor, beauty, wealth, ect. I get that it’s hard to find people that fit the job description sometimes, but it would have been a lot better if another popular creator who was underrepresented (POC, economically disadvantaged, member of LGBTQ+) joined their team so that it would be more diverse.

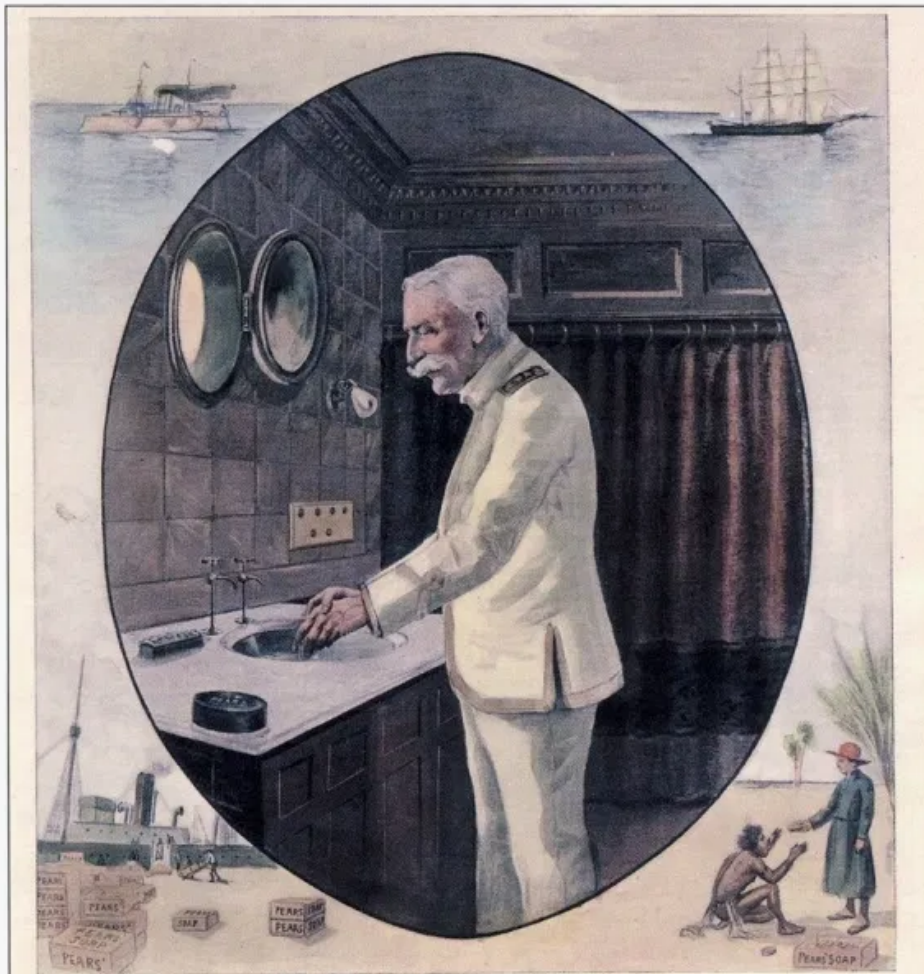
Perspectives of Europeans on non-Europeans

I am going to present a few documents that exhibit European actions and attitudes and ask you what they mean at the time and your thoughts on the connection to today. All of the historical documents are going to be offensive in some way but they are real accounts and help us understand how a system of discrimination was formed. If you cannot come up with a current day connection for every one, that is ok but do try.

Marketing White Superiority

During the Industrial Revolution and the growth of mass consumption, distinct soap brands were formulated and aggressively marketed. Yet how could an advertisement for something as everyday as soap possibly be exciting, or indeed distinctive? Prominent manufacturers such as Pears' Soap (still in existence today) tried every advertising angle when promoting their products. Pears' depicted the most famous actress of the day holding a bar of their soap; they paid a leading pre-Raphaelite artist for the right to use his material in an advertisement; and they tapped into dominant narratives of racist imperialism in order to sell as much soap as possible.





The first step towards lightening

The White Man's Burden

is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears' Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

Text: The first step towards lightening The White Man's Burden is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness. Pears' Soap is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place — it is the ideal toilet soap.

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| Why would the company think these messages were marketable? | Back then racism was widely accepted throughout the world so this was just another example of it. |
| How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans? | At the time I don't think it changed anything because racism was widely accepted |
| Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective? | When I look at this situation I connect it to Aunt Jemima which was a breakfast company whose logo was based off of a slave. |

Orientalism

The term “orientalism” began as a term the way Europeans viewed areas of Arab societies in North Africa and the Middle East. It morphed into the stereotype that the West was modern, white, rational and Christian while the “Orient” was primitive, non-white, emotional and Islamic. Artists depicted Arab warriors, slave markets and harems.

French artist Delacroix depicts a military attack on the inhabitants of Chios by Ottoman forces on 11 April 1822 that continued for several months into the summer of the same year. The campaign resulted in the deaths of twenty thousand citizens, and the forced deportation into slavery of almost all the surviving seventy thousand inhabitants





Delacroix, Women of Algiers in their Apartment 1834, (three women and their African servant at rest in a harem, the segregated, women-only living quarters for the wives of elite Muslim men (Islamic law allows a man to have several wives).)

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| How do these paintings portray the people and cultures of Northern Africa and the Middle East? | It portrayed them as lesser. A more primitive non-white and emotionless person. The culture was bad as it didn't follow western beliefs |
| How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans? | It makes Europeans feel like Middle Eastern and Northern African people are dirty and should not be treated as a person. |
| Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective? | One thing I think of is when Trump signed a travel ban preventing citizens from Muslim countries from entering the United States |

Rhodes in Rhodesia and Leopold in Congo

Rhodes

At the age of 23, Cecil Rhodes in this essay writes in support of imperialism, asserting that Britain has a right to conquer and control other lands. He moved from England to South Africa as a child and made a fortune in the diamond mines now known as the De Beers company. Later he founded the white dominated state of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Document: Cecil Rhodes, "Confession of Faith" (1877)

It often strikes a man to inquire what is the chief good in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seize on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence. To myself thinking over the same question the wish came to render myself useful to my country. I then asked myself how could I and after reviewing the various methods I have felt that at the present day we are actually limiting our children and perhaps bringing

into the world half the human beings we might owing to the lack of country for them to inhabit that if we had retained America there would at this moment be millions more of English living. I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. Just fancy those parts that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimens of human beings what an alteration there would be if they were brought under Anglo-Saxon influence, look again at the extra employment a new country added to our dominions gives. I contend that every acre added to our territory means in the future birth to some more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to this the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars....

Zulu War 1879

As part of Britain’s expansion in Africa they fought a war against the Zulu Kingdom in South Africa. Britain was taking their land by force, but this is the image depicting their action there.



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| <p>How does Rhodes justify his taking of land and resources in Africa?</p> | <p>He believes that he is a part of the most important race in the world and the more land they have the better it is for the world.</p> |
| <p>What does the image portray about the Zulu and British? (notice the positioning of the British man standing alone surrounded on all sides and standing over his countrymen’s body)</p> | <p>I feel it is trying to portray Zulu as a country that doesn’t care about feelings and only wants to spread violence. Seeing the british man is protecting the fallen man while the Zulu advance on him.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of</p> | <p>This will promote the idea that the European</p> |

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| Europeans on non-Europeans? | race is number one and anyone else should be captured and used for the benefit of the Europeans. |
| Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective? | I cannot see anything in today's society that relates to this event. |

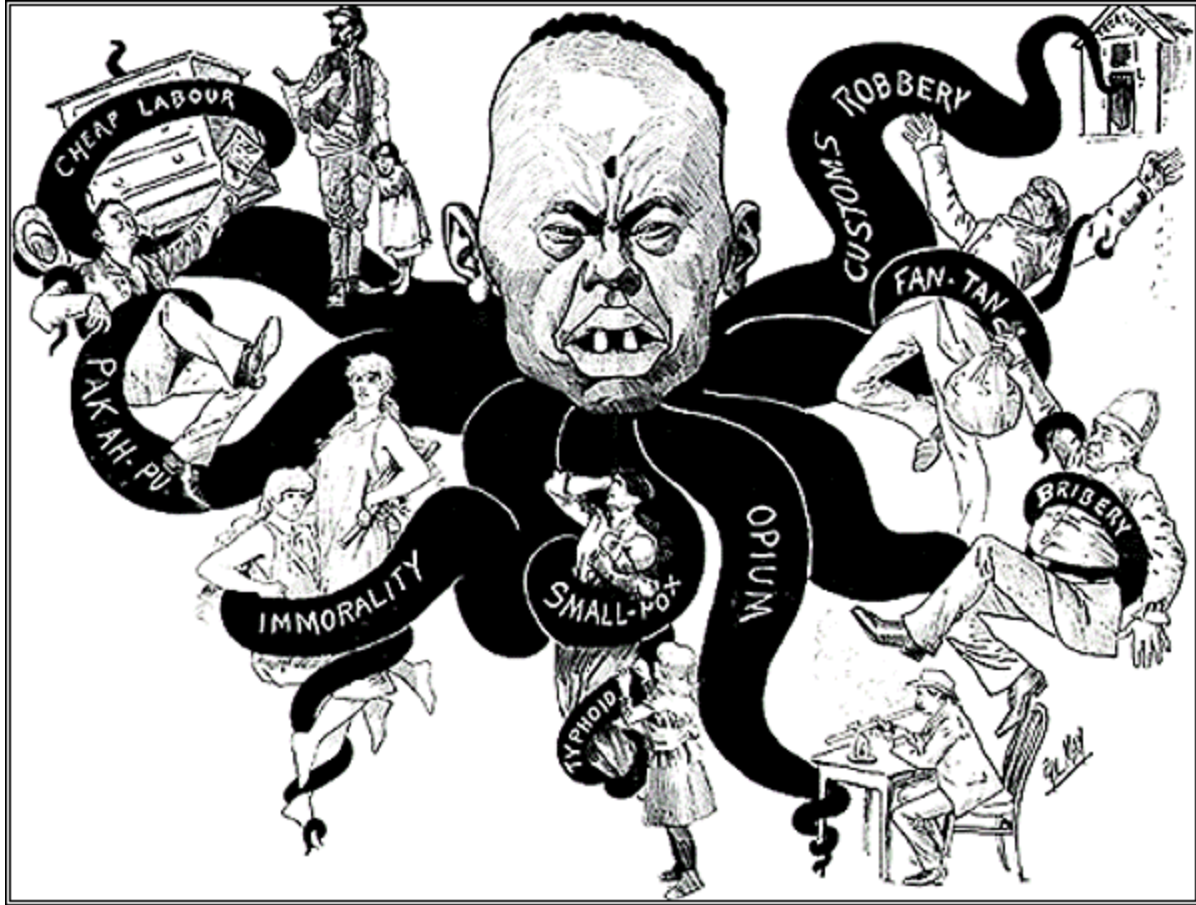
China

European stereotypes have historically characterised China as a place rife with sickness and Chinese people as inherently vulnerable to disease.

In fact, the country itself used to be referred to as the “Sick Man of Asia”, a derogatory phrase that gained momentum in the late 19th century following China’s losses in the Opium Wars. (The phrase was used both literally to describe poor health and figuratively to describe poor governance.)

Anti-Chinese propaganda from Britain and Australia





4.

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| <p>How are Europeans depicting the Chinese?</p> | <p>They are depicting them as people full of disease and corruption doing horrible things like opium and bribery.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans?</p> | <p>This will change Europeans' views on Chinese making them think that if they are around the Chinese they will contract these diseases.</p> |
| <p>Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective?</p> | <p>Yes, as today many Asians and Chinese people are being targeted for hate. Being attacked and raped because some Americans believe that because COVID started in Asia all Asians are at fault so they have to be punished which is not true.</p> |

5.

Sum up your ideas: How are Europeans developing views of non-Europeans?

They are developing horrible views on non europeans because of this propaganda they believe other countries hold disease and bring crime to any where they go. Creating a horrible misconception of these people before even getting to know them.

6.

Sum up your ideas: How are these views still seen in today's systems?

I see it a lot on the internet of people making "jokes" about other cultures and people where some you know are light and funny but others are dark holding a deeper evil within them. I see on the news reports of Asian people being beat up due to something out of their control like they didn't ask to have covid spread throughout the world.I just feel like there isn't enough empathy in the world and we need to start loving each other not pushing each other apart with hate.

Review Interview

Interview your neighbor-Come up with 4 questions for a classmate.

Your goal is to discover what they are understanding about this unit so far and whether it is connecting to their lives in some way.

TIPS: You want to document their answers. It might be less formal of a conversation if you just jot down some ideas instead of trying to type your answers in your computer. You want this to feel comfortable. Make sure you are listening and engaged. Don't interrupt, make eye contact, don't feel like you have to use your written questions if something is said that you want to pursue more.

First, make sure you introduce yourself and get your partner's name.

Question 1-Should warm up the relationship. A simple how are you or did you have a lot of homework last night?

Question:

Did you have anything to eat for breakfast this morning, if not, did you eat anything last night for dinner? What did you have?

Questions 2 and 3- Should be open ended questions that allow the person to speak beyond yes or no asking about what they are learning.

Question:

Do you like world studies so far? Has history always been a favorite or least favorite for you?

Question:

So far in this unit what has really struck your eye or made you want to explore something beyond the curriculum/course?

Question 4-Should be an open ended question encouraging the person to explain any connections or why they aren't connecting.

Question:

When you hear about these events do you feel like you're able to relate and pinpoint certain times in your life or do you feel like you just feel bad? If you just feel bad do you think that if you could've related you would have a better understanding and knowledge or do you think your perspective gives it a unique idea and vice versa?

When you are done, ask the person if they are willing to have you share their answers publicly with the class.

- Frosted mini wheats for breakfast
- NAME REMOVED has always loved world studies and talking about history in the past and modern issues now have always been something that she loves to talk about as well as seeing how racism and implicit biases have formed from long ago and progressed to this day, to modern day.
- When it comes to these movements she can't directly relate, but definitely listen and do the best that she can to serve and support people and communities as best as she can.

Disruptors to the Historical Narrative

*Who has disrupted the traditional narrative set up centuries ago during the Enlightenment?
How did they do it and what are their stories?*

Before we start, review the quote, history and current event from your work in [Enlightenment Connections to Global Current Events](#) from last class.

Now think for a second: What would it take to change this situation? (Type your response here)

It would take a lot of unlearning of biased behaviour and thinking and a lot of education on what exactly colonialism brought into the countries colonised. From then on, working to restructure the government and their policies might help to reverse the effects colonialism and the Enlightenment brought on.

Last class we looked at the systemic legacy of discrimination from the Enlightenment. Today we will look at how this narrative is changing. Choose the quote you used last class and investigate through your own searches for a story that examines a person or movement that has worked to change the system. Using the topic that you analyzed for the current connection, find an example of how the tradition is being challenged. Put the link and the summary in the far right column of the chart beside your topic. After summarizing your article, scroll to the bottom to answer the questions.

| Quote | Current Connection | Disruptor's story |
|---|--|-------------------|
| "I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor." Locke | Do Laws Removing French Muslims' Hijabs Remove Them from the Conversation? LINK | |
| Native "Americans and Negroes can't govern themselves...Thus they serve only as slaves." | Practical Hurdles, Cultural Distrust in Native Communities Could Hamper Vaccine Distribution LINK | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kant | | |
| <p>“Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans.”</p> <p>Montesquieu</p> | <p>Nigeria’s Invisible Crisis LINK Only read first section and stop at “Nigeria is a nation split in two”</p> | |
| <p>“The women’s entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women’s duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood.”</p> <p>Rousseau</p> | <p>Women and Opportunity in Southern India LINK</p> | |
| <p>Sodomy or bestiality: When the object of the desire is in fact of the opposite sex but is not human. This is contrary to the ends of humanity and against our natural instinct. It degrades mankind below the level of animals, for no</p> | <p>East Africa’s Queer Community Searches for a Home of its Own LINK</p> | <p>Kenyan filmmaker hopes to follow in Hollywood's LGBTQ footsteps - France 24</p> <p>A Kenyan filmmaker, Peter Murimi, made a documentary about a gay couple facing struggles in their community. He believes that displaying media about the LGBTQ+ community will help to spread tolerance towards them in Kenya. He was emboldened by the reception towards other films about similar topics, and hopes that films like his will help change minds about gay people, and when minds are changed, the law will change as well.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>animal turns in this way from its own species. These activities make a man unworthy of his humanity; he no longer deserves to be a person. From the point of view of duties towards himself such conduct is the most disgraceful and the most degrading of which man is capable.</p> <p>Kant</p> | | |
| <p>the poor man “to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him” “in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse.”</p> <p>Robert Moss</p> | <p>This Will Make Us Poorer: Pakistani Metro Brings Uncertainty to Displaced Residents</p> <p>LINK</p> | |

1. Explain how the traditional narrative is being disrupted.

Peter Murimi is working to spread tolerance about the LGBTQ+ community in Kenya through filmmaking. Oftentimes media pertaining to the community is heavily censored and it is considered taboo. Laws in Kenya state that someone can face up to 14 years in

jail for having gay sex. Murimi, by making a documentary about a gay couple, is disrupting the narrative by working past the censors and trying to change minds and the law about homosexuality and the rest of the community.

2. Did the article explain any consequences for the person or group doing the disrupting? If so, please explain. If not, explain the reaction to the person or group's efforts.

The article explained that there could be backlash against the film when it is released. There is also the chance that the film does not get past the censors and doesn't get released at all. Since the movie isn't released yet, there is no reaction to it, and there's no reaction to the making of it. However, in the event that there is backlash, Murimi explained they would have a plan for it.

3. How did you find the disruptor's story? Explain your investigative process.

I searched up 'Uganda gay rights' first but only found articles about homophobia and nothing about people standing up to it. Then, I searched up 'Kenya gay rights' and looked in the news tab. I kept scrolling until I found an article that wasn't about infringements on human rights but rather someone working to combat against it.

4. Do you think the disruptor's actions will be enough to create lasting change? Explain.

I don't think it's enough to make a lasting change, but I do think it'll be able to turn around some people's minds about the community and may start a chain reaction of more people making media spreading representation and a message of tolerance. In this way, more people might be accepting of the community and laws may change, and this is what Murimi hopes for. However, his actions alone will not cause a mass turnaround.

In a group discussion answer:

1. What are the qualities of a disruptor? Think of what it takes to be the person or group who changes the historic system.

It takes confidence, motivation, and courage to stand up to something that's wrong. It also takes intelligence, determination, and perseverance.

2. Can you think of any disruptors in Chicago? List your ideas and explain what historical system they were trying to change.

The BLM movement in Chicago was a disruptor and they were trying to change systematic racism, more recently in the justice system.

3. List strategies you could use to find disruptors in your community or in the larger community of Chicago.

Strategies you could use are research and using social media to reach out and see any “plans to disrupt.” You could also use similar methods to join in on activism, spread information and awareness, and “join in on the disrupting.”

Immigrant Views of US Racism

For Homework:

Please read this article: Coming to America: It's Not Like the Movie
<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/coming-america-its-not-movie> and answer the following questions:

1. How do some immigrants perceive race relations in the United States before they arrive?
Many Immigrants perceive race relations in the US before they arrive as races living in harmony and without racism. Many immigrants who come from Africa are not taught about the prejudice and racism in the United States. They are taught that racism ended after Martin Luther King. Many people are unprepared for the inequality they experience. They aren't prepared to be seen as a color rather than the character of their person.

2. Which legacy from today's lesson do they see America's principles based upon?
One person in particular sees America's principles based upon Slavery and how slaves built America. Iftin states "America doesn't give credit to how slavery has built this country." They also believe America's principles are built on racism and solely see people as their skin color and not for who they are. Everything is basically revolved around race.

3. Which legacy from today's lesson is still evident in our systems which shocks some immigrants?
Racism. Many of those who haven't come face to face with racism often choose to ignore it and that's the problem. Many immigrants who come to the United States are unaware of these issues revolving around race. They are unprepared for racism and don't know how to deal with it.

4. How can you personally relate to the perceptions in this article? Which America do you see?
I see the racist America. I see how many people of color are killed in different states. I see how my people are shot and misjudged greatly. I see the way America treats it's Black communities. Especially in Chicago where many different communities are separated in many different neighborhoods. I have seen many Black men die because of the color of their skin. I see how my immigrant parents are so blinded by the racism in the United States. They simply deny that it exists. They hold white people to great standards, stating that they're better than us solely because they are white. No one has ever explained racism to them nor have they experienced it, which is why they are blind to it. As the article states, those who have not experienced racism can just simply ignore it. And that's what a majority of the Hispanic community does.

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Issue Exploration Document

Think about any connections you can make from our study of Enlightenment quotes, colonial policy and global current events to your own community or lives. Start with asking yourself some of the following questions:

How do we see the legacy of discrimination in our own communities today?

We are a nation, a state, a city established by the descendants of European settlers. We know that we say we are founded on the ideas of justice and liberty but do our systems prove this for people of color, women, non-Christians, economically disadvantaged and those in the LGBTQ community?

Do we find the positive perspectives of the Enlightenment thought in our systems today?

How do you become aware of issues that you may not know exist for different groups?

- I want you to do three things before next class.

1-Watch the news or read a local news source to find any issues of discrimination.

Summarize the news story here:

I read a news story from Chicago SunTimes about an issue about racial discrimination, but mostly hair discrimination. The State Senator, Mike Simmons, introduced a new bill, "Hair Discrimination," because of racism that is related to people's hair. He introduced this bill because he knows what it's like to be "humiliated" in front of other kids because of a lack of understanding or acceptance of his hairstyle. The source says that he made history as the first Black person to represent his North Side area in the state Senate. He also introduced this bill, which was passed, because it is responding to all of the injustices he's heard on the news. The news also stated that "The bill would ensure the state's schools don't apply their school uniform or other dress code policies to hairstyles, "including hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists," according to the language of the bill." A lot of people, most of the times African Americans, have experienced discrimination because of their hair.

2-Watch [How to Interview](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then interview a family member, friend, neighbor, anyone to find out if they have had personal experience with witnessing or feeling discrimination in Chicago.

Summarize what your learned from [How to Interview](#) here:

What I learned about this video is that to make a good interview, you need to research about the person you're going to interview and plan questions beforehand. If the person isnt well

known or isn't in the public eye, you can still research about the topic that will be related to the interview. An important step is to plan the order in which you're going to ask the questions. You need to build trust with that person. Also ask open ended questions. Doing so allows the interview subject to who they are and why they feel that way in their own words. If you take your time, you will get much better and developed responses. Summarize their responses, and let quotes capture emotion.

Summarize your interview here:

I interviewed my mom, and I asked her if she has ever faced any type of discrimination. The first time she even came to the United States, she had gone to a flea market in Chicago. She knew broken English, so she decided to ask a salesperson a question in English. In which that person answered in Spanish, "You're speaking English...if you can tell *'que tienes el nopal en la frente.'*" What the person meant was that Mexican people couldn't speak English. She felt embarrassed because he said it out loud. That caused her to be traumatized, in which after that incident, she was never able to speak another English word ever again.

In another incident, she had gone to pay a parking ticket. She had gone with my dad's sister, and me (I was a baby.) My dad's sister was holding me, and while they were in line, someone was leaving their office, in which they stated to my aunt that 'her' daughter was really pretty. She told the person that it wasn't her daughter, but in fact it was hers, referring to my mom. The man looked back at my mom disgustingly and stated, "No that is not true, that cannot be her daughter." My mom had felt bad for herself and was upset because she felt as if it wasn't possible for her to have a daughter that had lighter skin than her. The man had thought it was impossible for me to be her daughter because I was a very pretty baby, had lighter skin, and I was well dressed. While on the other hand, my mom and my aunt looked completely differently. My aunt looked like a woman that was raised and looked American. My mom looked completely different, which led the man to think they were lying.

All of these incidents showed that here in Chicago, people can face discrimination, especially because of the color of someone's skin. It can happen anywhere and at any time.

3-Watch [How to describe what you see](#) (about 8 minutes) and [How to take pictures of what you see](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then look around your own neighborhood, commute to and from school, other neighborhoods, anywhere to think about whether you can see examples of discrimination.

Summarize what you learned from [How to describe what you see](#) here:

When you take the readers to an unfamiliar place, you should always describe your journey to the place you're going to. By doing this, you're inviting the readers to travel gradually from a known world to an unknown world. When arriving at your destination, it is important to

capture details that will help describe the place to the reader. Another way to take details is to take pictures of it. Use figurative language and comparisons that the readers can relate to, to describe the feelings of the place. You should always take in account how you feel in that place, and describe the place using your feelings. By attributing human feelings and characteristics to a place, you humanize it and make it relatable to the reader.

Summarize what you learned from [How to take pictures of what you see](#) here:

You should always plan and research your story in advance. Then make a list of photographs you want to take. Then keep an eye out for those moments when you're out in the field. It is better to ask questions and get comfortable with the people there so it helps them connect to the moment. Create a relationship with them, explaining why you're there and why you're telling this story. Compose interesting photos that capture a clear message. Always take pictures with different angles because it can capture a lot more things in different perspectives. You should always choose pictures that tell the story you want to tell. When photographing people, it is always important to respect how they want to be represented.

Explain what you saw and how it relates to discrimination-if you don't see anything then explain that:

There's this one man in my neighborhood that is homeless, and there's times when he sleeps inside stores. Everytime I go out, I always see him, and I see him in different places in my neighborhood. What I have noticed is that they always discriminate against him just for the reason that he is homeless. This relates to discrimination because it can come in different types of ways, whether that is racial discrimination, etc.

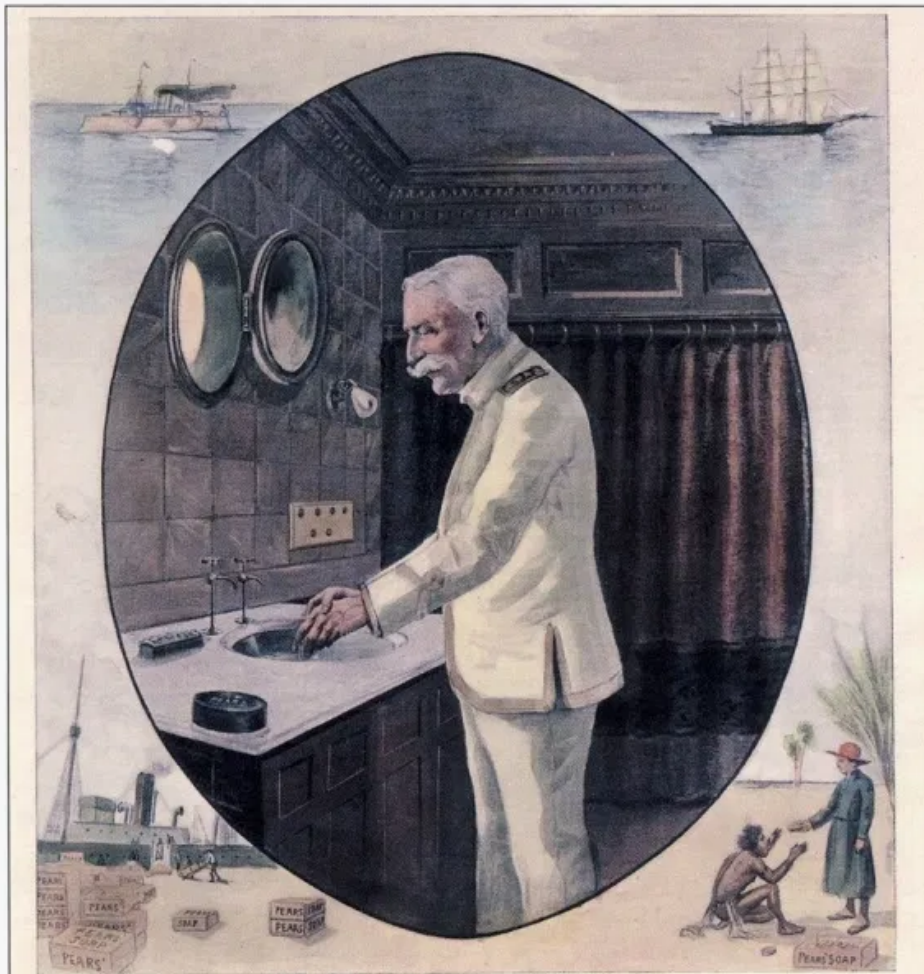
Perspectives of Europeans on non-Europeans

I am going to present a few documents that exhibit European actions and attitudes and ask you what they mean at the time and your thoughts on the connection to today. All of the historical documents are going to be offensive in some way but they are real accounts and help us understand how a system of discrimination was formed. If you cannot come up with a current day connection for every one, that is ok but do try.

Marketing White Superiority

During the Industrial Revolution and the growth of mass consumption, distinct soap brands were formulated and aggressively marketed. Yet how could an advertisement for something as everyday as soap possibly be exciting, or indeed distinctive? Prominent manufacturers such as Pears' Soap (still in existence today) tried every advertising angle when promoting their products. Pears' depicted the most famous actress of the day holding a bar of their soap; they paid a leading pre-Raphaelite artist for the right to use his material in an advertisement; and they tapped into dominant narratives of racist imperialism in order to sell as much soap as possible.





The first step towards lightening

The White Man's Burden

is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness.

Pears' Soap

is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances, while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place—it is the ideal toilet soap.

Text: The first step towards lightening The White Man's Burden is through teaching the virtues of cleanliness. Pears' Soap is a potent factor in brightening the dark corners of the earth as civilization advances while amongst the cultured of all nations it holds the highest place — it is the ideal toilet soap.

1.

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| <p>Why would the company think these messages were marketable?</p> | <p>The company might have thought these messages were marketable because of the stereotype of African Americans that were being widely spread during that time, shown in enlightenment readings. In the first message it shows a African child and once it used the soap it turned white. It makes it seem like turning white is the good aftermath, and being black is the beforehand, which is usually showing what is not wanted. These ideas were spread around a lot, and it's what was thought at that time although it's very wrong.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans?</p> | <p>It will make Europeans think African Americans are dirty and incapable of doing things themselves. In both advertisements they had no clothes, even the one who wasn't in a bathtub, and were being handed soap from a white person. It makes it seem like they are weak and poor.</p> |
| <p>Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective?</p> | <p>I researched recent racist advertisements and quite a few responses showed up. There were some for big brands such as Volkswagen and Dove. I also recall recently seeing an advertisement for skin whitener which shows the same idea that changing skin colors is advertised and capitalized upon.</p> |

Orientalism

The term “orientalism” began as a term the way Europeans viewed areas of Arab societies in North Africa and the Middle East. It morphed into the stereotype that the West was modern, white, rational and Christian while the “Orient” was primitive, non-white, emotional and Islamic. Artists depicted Arab warriors, slave markets and harems.

French artist Delacroix depicts a military attack on the inhabitants of Chios by Ottoman forces on 11 April 1822 that continued for several months into the summer of the same year. The campaign resulted in the deaths of twenty thousand citizens, and the forced deportation into slavery of almost all the surviving seventy thousand inhabitants



Delacroix, Women of Algiers in their Apartment 1834, (three women and their African servant at rest in a harem, the segregated, women-only living quarters for the wives of elite Muslim men (Islamic law allows a man to have several wives.)

2.

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| <p>How do these paintings portray the people and cultures of Northern Africa and the Middle East?</p> | <p>It makes it seem like the people in Northern Africa and the Middle East are constantly fighting with one another. It also makes it seem like they are supposed to work while other people are able to relax.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans?</p> | <p>It will make Europeans think the people in Northern Africa and the Middle East are violent or that they are meant to cater to the Europeans.</p> |

Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective?

Donald Trump issued a travel ban on Northern African and Middle Eastern countries while in office. It prevented people from those countries from entering America, including refugees. He stated it was to prevent terrorism in America, while these countries, especially Syria, were in crises that demanded urgent action. This shows the stereotype of people in Northern African and Middle Eastern countries being violent is still seen recently.

Rhodes in Rhodesia and Leopold in Congo

Rhodes

At the age of 23, Cecil Rhodes in this essay writes in support of imperialism, asserting that Britain has a right to conquer and control other lands. He moved from England to South Africa as a child and made a fortune in the diamond mines now known as the De Beers company. Later he founded the white dominated state of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

Document: Cecil Rhodes, "Confession of Faith" (1877)

It often strikes a man to inquire what is the chief good in life; to one the thought comes that it is a happy marriage, to another great wealth, and as each seize on his idea, for that he more or less works for the rest of his existence. To myself thinking over the same question the wish came to render myself useful to my country. I then asked myself how could I and after reviewing the various methods I have felt that at the present day we are actually limiting our children and perhaps bringing into the world half the human beings we might owing to the lack of country for them to inhabit that if we had retained America there would at this moment be millions more of English living. I contend that we are the finest race in the world and that the more of the world we inhabit the better it is for the human race. Just fancy those parts that are at present inhabited by the most despicable specimens of human beings what an alteration there would be if they were brought under Anglo-Saxon influence, look again at the extra employment a new country added to our dominions gives. I contend that every acre added to our territory means in the future birth to some more of the English race who otherwise would not be brought into existence. Added to this the absorption of the greater portion of the world under our rule simply means the end of all wars....

Zulu War 1879

As part of Britain's expansion in Africa they fought a war against the Zulu Kingdom in South Africa. Britain was taking their land by force, but this is the image depicting their action there.



3.

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| <p>How does Rhodes justify his taking of land and resources in Africa?</p> | <p>Rhodes justifies this act by saying the British are the greatest race and if they take over everywhere there would be no more wars. Not only is this racist, but it is hypocritical because the British literally started the war.</p> |
| <p>What does the image portray about the Zulu and British? (notice the positioning of the British man standing alone surrounded on all sides and standing over his countrymen's body)</p> | <p>It makes the British look more technologically advanced because they have guns while the Zulu's have bows and arrows. It also makes the Zulu's look less civilized because they don't have many clothes while the British do. It makes the Zulu's look more militarily advanced because they have more people and have surrounded the British.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans?</p> | <p>This will make Europeans see non-Europeans as uncivilized and unadvanced because of the depiction of the Zulu's not having clothes or guns and because of Rhodes saying the British are the greatest race in the world. Also, the Zulu's seemed very strong, physically and militarily, but this strength would probably have been seen as barbaric because of the stereotypes surrounding violence.</p> |
| <p>Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective?</p> | <p>There are groups consisting of white people in America that harass, harm, and kill people of other races because of their belief of white</p> |

people or American's being the best.

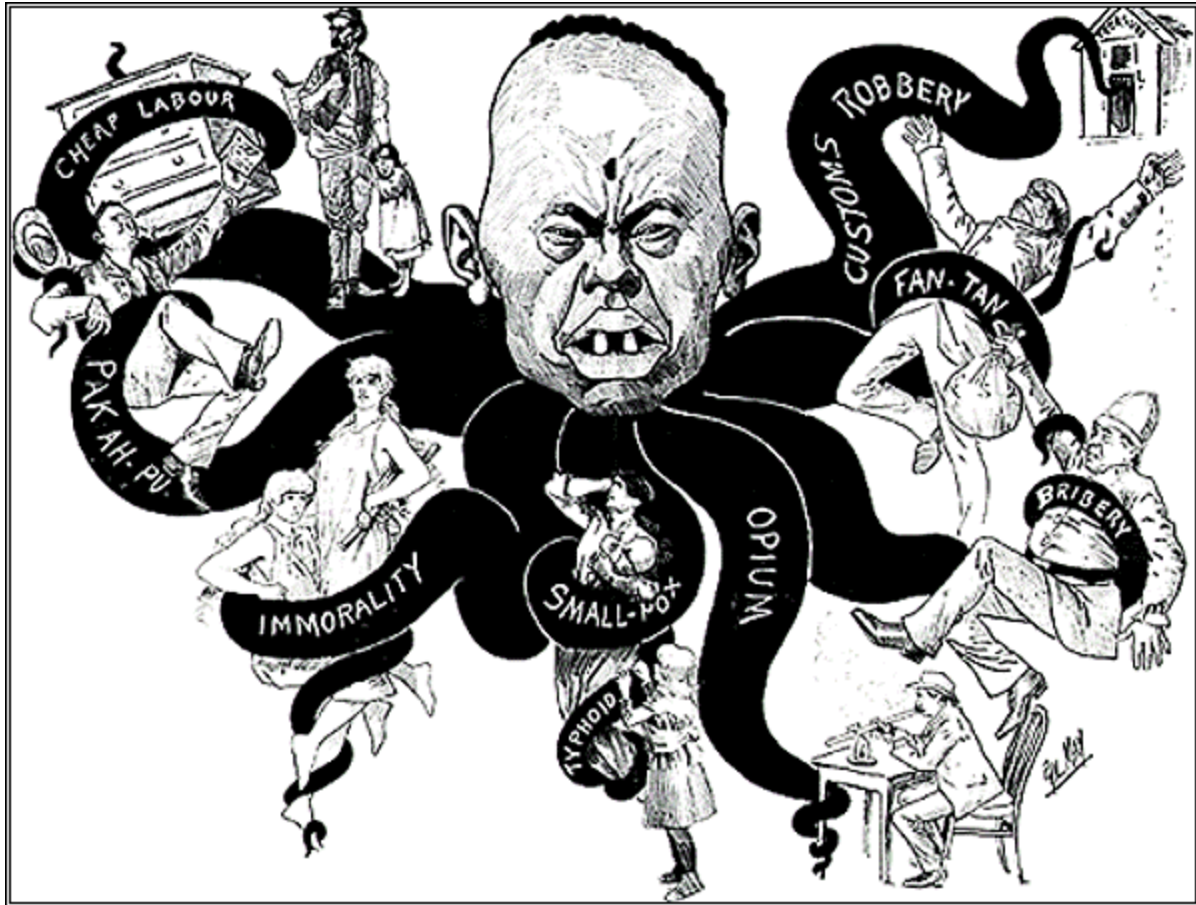
China

European stereotypes have historically characterised China as a place rife with sickness and Chinese people as inherently vulnerable to disease.

In fact, the country itself used to be referred to as the “Sick Man of Asia”, a derogatory phrase that gained momentum in the late 19th century following China’s losses in the Opium Wars. (The phrase was used both literally to describe poor health and figuratively to describe poor governance.)

Anti-Chinese propaganda from Britain and Australia





4.

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| <p>How are Europeans depicting the Chinese?</p> | <p>Europeans are making people fear the Chinese by spreading the idea that they spread disease and bad systems to other countries.</p> |
| <p>How will this impact the perspective of Europeans on non-Europeans?</p> | <p>This will make Europeans think non-Europeans or the Chinese are filled with disease and corruption and possibly get angry, or blame them for any disease or corruption they might have.</p> |
| <p>Can you think of any current connections to this historical European perspective?</p> | <p>There has been an increase in hate crimes against Asians, specifically Chinese people, since the pandemic. The blame has also been repeatedly labeled on China, with the former president constantly calling it, "the China virus," which spreads more unnecessary direct anger and blame towards Chinese people.</p> |

5.

Sum up your ideas: How are Europeans developing views of non-Europeans?

Europeans are developing views of non-Europeans based on enlightenment views which depict non-Europeans as violent, corrupt, and uncivilized. These views were spread everywhere, through propaganda, art, speech, writing, and even advertisements. This spread made these views even more prominent, which caused more and more harm to the non-European countries.

6.

Sum up your ideas: How are these views still seen in today's systems?

These views are still seen in today's system through advertisements, politics, and society as a whole because a lot of people still agree with some of these views. These views which were developed and spread a long time ago, are still shown today because of the people who think they are superior based on these views. The views, and the people who agree with the views, are still showing harm to non-Europeans constantly.

Review Interview

Interview your neighbor-Come up with 4 questions for a classmate.

Your goal is to discover what they are understanding about this unit so far and whether it is connecting to their lives in some way.

TIPS: You want to document their answers. It might be less formal of a conversation if you just jot down some ideas instead of trying to type your answers in your computer. You want this to feel comfortable. Make sure you are listening and engaged. Don't interrupt, make eye contact, don't feel like you have to use your written questions if something is said that you want to pursue more.

First, make sure you introduce yourself and get your partner's name.

Question 1-Should warm up the relationship. A simple how are you or did you have a lot of homework last night?

Question: How was your weekend?

Questions 2 and 3- Should be open ended questions that allow the person to speak beyond yes or no asking about what they are learning.

Question: How do you think the enlightenment worsened white supremacy?
It was clear these people during the enlightenment were promoting the idea that they were better than other races and their place of power normalized it. Racism seemed very normal and they thought they were being fair and not mistreating anyone.

Question: What do the two sides of the faces of the enlightenment tell you about European society during this time period?
The two sides of these people showed that they were looking for freedom, but only freedom that benefited them. Only white men got the benefit, and this shaped ideas that were in their favor.

Question 4-Should be an open ended question encouraging the person to explain any connections or why they aren't connecting.

Question: How do the ideas of the enlightenment still exist in today's systems?

These racist and sexist ideas were built into systems, and even if racist laws are abolished,

people are still segregated by bias, and gender inequities still exist.

When you are done, ask the person if they are willing to have you share their answers publicly with the class.

Enlightenment Connections to Global Current Events

Pick **one** of the following quotes to trace its legacy from the Enlightenment, through colonization to today. You will review the quote, read the colonial policy link and the current connection link.

Summarize each reading in the chart below the link.

When finished, please answer the questions at the bottom of the chart.

| Quote | Colonial Policy | Current Connection |
|---|--|--|
| <p>“I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor.” Locke</p> | <p>MISSIONARIES AND FRENCH IMPERIALISM: THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES IN FRENCH COLONIAL EXPANSION, 1880-1905</p> <p>(Describes policy meant to convert Muslims)</p> <p>LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> | <p>Do Laws Removing French Muslims’ Hijabs Remove Them from the Conversation?</p> <p>LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> |
| <p>Native “Americans and Negroes can’t govern themselves... Thus they serve only as slaves.” Kant</p> | <p>“Native Americans in Colonial America” (Describes original European policies)</p> <p>LINK and LINK (video describes policy)</p> <p>Summary:</p> | <p>Practical Hurdles, Cultural Distrust in Native Communities Could Hamper Vaccine Distribution LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> |
| <p>“Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans.” Montesquieu</p> | <p>“French Colonialism in Algeria: War, Legacy, and Memory” (Describes French violence against the Algerians that was then ignored)</p> <p>LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> | <p>Nigeria’s Invisible Crisis LINK</p> <p>Only read first section and stop at “Nigeria is a nation split in two”</p> <p>Summary:</p> |
| <p>“The women’s entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women’s duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood.” Rousseau</p> | <p>“What Led to the Decline Of The Matrilineal Society in Kerala?” (Describes British colonial impact on Indian women)</p> <p>LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>For a period of time, the majority of Kerala was a Matrilineal society. At the time men were sent off to war or for other war like endeavours for their state, leaving women behind to be in charge of providing for their “taravad”</p> | <p>Women and Opportunity in Southern India LINK</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>From a young age, Women in India are thought to sacrifice their education to bear children and work to provide for their families, however due to a lack of education, these jobs are often not enough to support their families.</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>which was collection of families living together. Women controlled most of the parenting, economics, and family succession. Men came back from war time efforts with “Modern English education” which led them to see women as lesser, and enact change to empower themselves in society.</p> | |
| <p>Sodomy or bestiality: When the object of the desire is in fact of the opposite sex but is not human. This is contrary to the ends of humanity and against our natural instinct. It degrades mankind below the level of animals, for no animal turns in this way from its own species. These activities make a man unworthy of his humanity; he no longer deserves to be a person. From the point of view of duties towards himself such conduct is the most disgraceful and the most degrading of which man is capable.</p> <p>Kant</p> | <p>“The British Colonial Origins of Anti-gay Laws” (Describes Britain’s colonial laws against homosexuality)</p> <p>LINK Summary:</p> | <p>East Africa’s Queer Community Searches for a Home of its Own LINK Summary:</p> |
| <p>the poor man “to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him” “in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse.” Robert Moss</p> | <p>“Social Darwinism and the Poor” (Explains how Europeans and also Americans blamed the poor for being poor)</p> <p>LINK Summary:</p> | <p>Poverty and Homelessness Lead to Victorian Diseases in the UK LINK Read only up to TB Summary:</p> |

After picking **one** of the above to discover more, please answer:

1. Explain what you understand about the Enlightenment era quote.

My understanding of the quote is that, at the time, women were expected to provide and administer care for men throughout their lives, dedicating their entire lives to the men in their lives. I can assume that many women were taught from a young age to abide by this, being taught that their sole purpose was to provide, care for, and respect men unconditionally.

2. What do you understand from the history about how Europeans used the Enlightenment principles in the quote to form their colonial policy?

The policy in question was how women were expected to obey and serve men. During colonialism, the Europeans started to “educate” the many that they've conquered with this idea that women should be servants to men. Men throughout these various colonies took that idea and brought it home, implementing laws or ideals amongst their own civilizations with this idea in mind.

3. How does the current event article connect:
 - A. To the Enlightenment ideal-

The current event article connects to the ideal that women are servants by showing the results of the implementation of these ideals decades ago. The implementation of these ideals resulted in what we have today, a society where women are taught to be, and treated as lesser, with their sole role being to provide and take care of men, just like how the Ideal envisioned.

- B. To the European Colonial Policy-

This current event article connects to the policy itself, again by showing the direct effects, which was exactly what it stood for. The modern day effects show how women are now seen as lesser, obligated to fulfill the same societal roles as the Policy entails.

4. How did the European application of Enlightenment ideals (think back to the first ideas of freedom and equality we looked at from the same men) depend on the group?

The European application of Enlightenment ideals differed from group to group. Certain groups of people did not benefit from the Ideas of Enlightenment. Blacks, women, gays, and anyone else who wasn't white were left out. In this case, women were left out as they did not receive “freedom for all” or the idea of free thinking either, in fact they benefitted very little from the enlightenment.

5. How did the European Enlightenment create a legacy of justice for the few and systemic discrimination for the many?

The European Enlightenment created a legacy of discrimination for many who weren't themselves European, or even some Europeans themselves by introducing ideas and policies that oppressed certain groups of people (Like blacks, women, natives, and homosexuals etc.) This legacy has helped these oppressed groups flourish and enlighten themselves, finding justice and breaking free from these ideals.

Issue Exploration Document

Think about any connections you can make from our study of Enlightenment quotes, colonial policy and global current events to your own community or lives. Start with asking yourself some of the following questions:

How do we see the legacy of discrimination in our own communities today?

We are a nation, a state, a city established by the descendants of European settlers. We know that we say we are founded on the ideas of justice and liberty but do our systems prove this for people of color, women, non-Christians, economically disadvantaged and those in the LGBTQ community?

Do we find the positive perspectives of the Enlightenment thought in our systems today?

How do you become aware of issues that you may not know exist for different groups?

- I want you to do three things before next class.

1-Watch the news or read a local news source to find any issues of discrimination.

Summarize the news story here:

<https://abc7chicago.com/chicago-crash-logan-square-boulevard-police/10570363/>

A man ran into a group of picnickers after shouting something racist about Asians. He jumped curb and rammed his truck into them. Three were injured, one of them in critical condition.

2-Watch [How to Interview](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then interview a family member, friend, neighbor, anyone to find out if they have had personal experience with witnessing or feeling discrimination in Chicago.

Summarize what you learned from [How to Interview](#) here:

I learned that it's important to make the person you're interviewing comfortable first, do your research on the person, ask open-ended questions, don't rush the interview, and listen for powerful quotes.

Summarize your interview here:

My mother experienced discrimination in Skokie at Marianos. She was picking up milk and came out into the parking lot. A white man came out and yelled racist comments. She got scared since it was past sunset, rushed into the car, and drove home. Another time she was at the same place picking up soup at the hot food section. Two white ladies made faces and said something along the lines of, "Where are these people coming from, why do they come here?" They said something to the lady who worked at the counter and she came in, picked up the pot

my mom was taking soup from and replaced it. The previous pot was perfectly fine.

3-Watch [How to describe what you see](#) (about 8 minutes) and [How to take pictures of what you see](#) (about 9 minutes) and summarize what you learned. Then look around your own neighborhood, commute to and from school, other neighborhoods, anywhere to think about whether you can see examples of discrimination.

Summarize what you learned from [How to describe what you see](#) here:

I learned that it's important to describe your experience with what you're describing, observe and take notes, use figurative language and comparisons, and use personal feelings for description.

Summarize what you learned from [How to take pictures of what you see](#) here:

I learned that it's important to get a lot of light in the picture, research in advance, make connections to people and places, and compose interesting and meaningful photos.

Explain what you saw and how it relates to discrimination-if you don't see anything then explain that:

I was in the parking lot of Fresh Farms with my mom and we were searching for a parking space. We found a person who was getting out and we were waiting. Another person, a white man, came along, presumably for the same space. We were there first, so we went first as soon as the first person came out. As we were going in, the man who came second got out of his car and shouted obscenities at my mom. He said he would make her "disappear off the f---ing streets." Eventually we drove off, not wanting to deal with it and found another parking space, letting him take ours. It relates to discrimination because as far as we knew the white guy did not behave this way with other people. He also acted pretty entitled, as if he deserved the parking space over us, despite us being there first. It's not the first time someone like this has acted entitled, nor is it the first time someone has acted like this in front of us. Many racist, classist, or xenophobic people believe they have some sort of "first right" above others, and are allowed better circumstances than others, such as a cut in a line, or being allowed things not permitted to others. This kind of thinking has also been born from discrimination, such as colonial times from Europe where white people were given more rights than people of colour.

Immigrant Views of US Racism

For Homework:

Please read this article: Coming to America: It's Not Like the Movie
<https://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/coming-america-its-not-movie> and answer the following questions:

1. How do some immigrants perceive race relations in the United States before they arrive?
They think that the U.S. is a great and amazing place that welcomes everyone who is granted to come. This thinks America is extremely true to their values.

2. Which legacy from today's lesson do they see America's principles based upon?
I see that some of America's principles are based on race and the country is built a lot off of what race and ethnicity you are.

3. Which legacy from today's lesson is still evident in our systems which shocks some immigrants?
The legacy of systemic racism is still evident in our systems which shocks some immigrants.

4. How can you personally relate to the perceptions in this article? Which America do you see?
I can personally not relate to this article as much as I am part of the white population in the U.S. and we have been supported and given the most opportunities for lots of time. The America I see is one that says they will give the same opportunities and freedoms to all but one that still struggles with its tough past.

Investigative documentation of immigrant stories and experiences in Chicago.

These articles are essentially just written descriptions and analyses of the experiences of discrimination and abuse these immigrants from Latin America dealt with on their journey from their first arrival to now. This is a series of 3 interviews, all of which are about the experiences of my family members.

Article/Interview 1-Interview with mother

First story

The introduction to the experiences of an immigrant from Guatemala

Immigration is an important topic that is discussed by many and is usually a concept that is talked about in the government and policies surrounding it already. I have interviewed both of my parents to gain insight on this particular issue on immigration and discrimination based on race and socioeconomic status from Latin America to the US and highlight its effects and consequences. Due to this drastic difference in both culture and especially language, it's no surprise that because of that, negative expectations and stereotypes have arisen towards immigrants from different parts of the world for being different due to the Eurocentric ideas that have been previously established during the era of Enlightenment and as a significant byproduct of Colonialism and later Imperialism by the US in Latin America that looked upon foreigners and those unlike Europeans in a negative and disgraceful way. Because of this, the life of immigrants once they arrive is quite difficult and an immense upwards battle that one must overcome to become successful both financially and socially, though of course with the added factors that contributed to discrimination, this is no easy feat. With this, we will look at an example of how an immigrant from Central America managed to beat both the odds and overcome the struggle and barriers to successfully build her life here in Chicago to defy these negative expectations and stereotypes. This person is my mother and here I asked a few questions to listen to her story and the discrimination and struggles she faced and overcame. Interview session with mother:

Interview 1

Q: When you first arrived in Chicago, how did you feel about the social climate?

A: When I first arrived here after my first and only plane ride from Guatemala City to Chicago, the first thing I felt about the social climate was an incredibly large culture shock not only due to the different cultures and races that can be found in this city but also the language. I was unaware of just how different English was to Spanish in terms of pronunciation and spelling and it didn't help that I was never told this and therefore came to the US blindly and without knowing the language in hopes of relying on the fact that many other migrants here in Chicago especially also speak Spanish. The language was the thing that impacted me the most as English was of course not my first language and most everyone I encountered spoke English. Even being a Spanish speaker made things tough as well due to the predominantly Mexican culture that forced me to

adapt to it as I was Guatemalan and the different dialects and words for items confused Mexicans who did not understand my way of speaking, which embarrassed me since even those who spoke the same language did not understand what I was saying. This is what gave me the most trouble and their reason as to why I felt very scared in this unfamiliar environment.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced in terms of finding work or support in this unfamiliar environment?

A: The biggest challenge I faced was the language barrier as mentioned before since it was tremendously difficult to understand and learn the language and there weren't many opportunities in learning the language for me. I'm not very good at learning new languages in general and because English is a very strange language with tons of different spelling and pronunciation that confused me a lot, I was unable to learn anything but a few words and phrases for my first several years in Chicago. This heavily impacted my ability to find work and given that in that sense I was also an immigrant, finding people that would accept me would be very difficult and I had to resort to living with employers to receive any sort of income for my first few years in Chicago. The sacrifices and hard goodbyes I made to my family back in the US did impact me but luckily I had a few known relatives in Chicago so I still had someone to help me navigate this unknown territory, though that still did not mitigate the troubles. This both emotionally and physically challenged me as I had to work with Latinos who put me under strenuous housework and caretaking of children only to be paid \$150 after a week's worth of work. The emotional impact came as a result of me being left out despite being around those who spoke the same language and held similar values, though they never seemed to value my hard work which became a massive burden I tried to overcome. I moved from two jobs that involved house cleaning but both were incredibly strenuous and paid very little for the amount of work that was accomplished within a week. In this case, I felt discriminated against for being the oddball of the scenario and strived to find ways in alleviating this great pressure by looking for other opportunities and relief from friends and family, which I thankfully did find later on.

Q: What were some things that gave you relief in terms of emotional and financial support?

A: In terms of emotional and financial support, the thing that most gave me the support I needed was a new workplace and environment that gave me that and where I started to see a turn of events for my life after one day being recommended to work for the friend of one of my aunts who sought someone to work for them as a house cleaner, though the catch was that this person spoke solely English, which was slightly off-putting for me as I was unsure and quite nervous how this would affect my ability to work with this person. Seeing as I wanted to leave behind the demanding work and lackluster pay I experienced in those two other jobs, I decided to take a leap of faith and accept the job offer by seeking this friend. At first, the language barrier was a challenge and at times I had no idea what this person had asked for or what I wanted but as time progressed I grew more accustomed to what was expected of me, and in this, I found emotional relief as well due to the caring and accepting attitude of this person. Despite not speaking the

same language, this person was very caring and her compassionate nature in which the person allowed me to take breaks in between work and called me over to the dinner table to eat were the things I needed to reinvigorate my motivation and confidence to move forward and pave the way for the life I wanted to build here in America. In this instant, I was happy living with this person as it provided me with emotional relief and support that I had needed and of course, the financial benefit that came with staying here was also that I was getting paid more and being put under less stress than my previous jobs. This was a huge life changer and to this day I still have good relationships with this person at work, motivating me to continue working with others and spreading this compassion as I strived for a better life.

Q: What would you recommend in similar places about either the systems present in the US or the racial and social climate to help them also overcome these struggles?

A: I would recommend you learn the language since it was an incredibly large barrier to overcome and I regret not learning the language first back in Guatemala as it proved a major challenge and would not want others to be faced with this as well. Along with this, I would also recommend being prepared for the change that comes with immigrating to a completely foreign nation with people of all types of backgrounds and cultures. Also, you should inform yourself about the rights that are available to immigrants to defend themselves against those attempting to take advantage of their ignorance and thus discriminating them based on their race and also contribute to society in a meaningful way to mitigate this as not filing your taxes or partaking in civic duties can be incriminating things that will get you in trouble if you are caught so always strive to be a good citizen. Adding on to being a good citizen, I believe you should come here to actively improve your life and be willing to work hard to do so as I am aware of crime syndicate members arriving from Latin America to the US, which I do not endorse since that is illegal and immoral. This is why I believe you should come here to work hard and strive for a better life than what they experienced back in their country of origin. The last and final thing I recommend is to be compassionate and helpful towards others who are either similar or different because this country needs people that are willing to put aside their differences and work together to resolve the issues affecting us today.

Q: What other personal experiences did you have where you felt discriminated against or felt inferior because of these Eurocentric ideas or stereotypes?

A: In the case of personal experiences with discriminatory action based on Eurocentric ideas or stereotypes, I am unable to remember a specific account for such impactful experience and was only able to remember discriminating things that happened in my country of origin, which were because she was a woman and in my culture women were expected to perform household chores, basically limiting women's freedom to their husband's domains. In short, I think I said had never experienced something terrible where I felt completely discriminated against or felt inferior, but she did feel immense fear and stress whenever challenges such as language and cultural barriers arise in which she felt unable to do anything about because of my inability to speak other

languages and understand other cultures at the time, which she has since managed to overcome in recent years.

Q: What do you think could improve with the current system to be more inclusive and helpful towards immigrants?

A: I say that an obvious thing to improve the current system is to reform the current immigration system that I believe is slightly convoluted and requires too much time to await approval to enter the US legally, and in most cases, it's unclear whether you will even be accepted or not so must instead opt to choose the dangerous and illegal method of immigrating to the US by crossing the border on foot or vehicles. The current immigration crisis at the border is a perfect example of the system's inability to process thousands of immigrant applications which only exacerbates the issue. A revamp is necessary to ameliorate the issue and encourage immigrants from this part of the world to do so legally. I also am seeing how the system has seen improvement in helping immigrants get accustomed to life here in America by providing opportunities to learn the language and overall seeing an increase in support groups and workshop sessions to assist in the adaptation to a new country and a new life. In the end, I think it all lies on if people are willing to see the good in others and embrace our differences to see a more inclusive environment that accepts everyone no matter social or cultural differences, and of course, the system should see reform that truly allows for everyone, despite their immigrant status and such, to receive equal rights and opportunities under the law and allow people who immigrated here illegally to get a second chance if they have no criminal background or intentions within this country.

Q: What are your final thoughts on how the system today has impacted the ability of you and others to succeed?

A: Overall, I think the most impactful thing the system has done to impede my ability to succeed is how both migrants and those of Hispanic race are put under constant fear of deportation by border patrol agents and ICE, which in turns allows for many to take advantage of this fear by discriminating against them and threatening them to turn them in and such, something I have heard from many close friends or from other people I have talked to during my travels. Also, being unaware of what was to come when I arrived here being the young and naive person I was didn't help and I regret not informing myself more about America and its diverse social climate that while diverse still suffers from discrimination against many minority groups due to the Eurocentric values and ideas that the nation was built on many years ago. Because of this, many immigrants are expected to fail and not achieve the American dream that they were told of back in their countries of origin, which I strongly believe is of course false. Immigrants can be successful here despite being foreigners and the many things I have accomplished here are a testament to that fact. I have learned countless lessons here in America and the ideas of social justice and expression while also thinking about solutions to systemic and social issues present in the US which are incredibly hinged on race, which I hope one day becomes a true thing of the past. These negative expectations and stereotypes given to not only Hispanics but also other

minorities and immigrants from other countries are slowly but surely being revoked and are changing such as immigration laws and reforms, which are all good things that I hope continue happening for the better of this country as a whole. I want to see my achievements and success be an example to someone striving to make their lives better to be that it is possible, and most importantly I want my children to continue my accomplishments and do things I could never hope doing such as finally completing their post-secondary education, which my daughter who was already gotten her undergraduate degree and many more who are ready to. In the end, I'm grateful to both God and everyone who has helped me get this far in life. Thank you for this important interview as it made me reflect on my life and all the struggles and hardships I endured to reach this incredible point.

Analysis and thoughts

After this interview, I reflected upon both the incredible achievements my mother has managed to complete by overcoming large obstacles and barriers and also how the social and migratory system influenced by the Eurocentric ideas present at the time impacted her ability to succeed, though not enough to completely impede my mother from succeeding. When my mother came here, she was promised the great opportunities available to her in America and how all her hardships in Guatemala would in a way, offset the hard work she would have to do in America and allow her to succeed. It turns out of course that it is easier said than done and given that she was quite young and just leaving high school, it is understandable why she struggled greatly due to cultural shock and language barriers present during her arrival in Chicago. By looking at how discrimination and negative expectations made things considerably more difficult for my mother in her first years, we can trace back the origins of such a system to the original enlightenment ideas and see how they left a negative impact on today's social systems. One such example from Robert Moss which states, "the poor man "to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him" "in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse" This falls in line with the expectations that many are placed while here in America when first immigrating here since many are forced to start from square 1 and struggle through an uphill battle to get to a decent standing and this quote highlights how the poor were expected to remain poor either due to their lackluster work ethic or just the fact that they were poor meant they could simply do nothing to move out of that hole. All of this highlights a bigger problem with immigration and a xenophobic mentality present within the US about other cultures and their "inferiority".

Of course, when my mother first arrived here she was at first unaware of the inherently discriminatory racial and social systems and thought of the country as a new place for economic opportunities as told by many people in Guatemala who thought of the US as the place to go to fulfill your dreams through hard work and perseverance and quotes such as John Locke's which says, "All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions." which my mother believed initially, though it became widely

apparent this wasn't the case and as mentioned before while she never personally faced any harsh discrimination, she had heard countless other stories from others such as relatives and strangers she met on her daily commutes to work. Overall, my mother beat the narrative established by the two quotes that played a part in influencing the discriminatory and racially centered system that we still see today through countless national events highlighting the issue further. Just as my mother hopes things improve for others who are also seeking to come to America for a better life, I too hope that this narrative provides a powerful example and symbol of how hard work and perseverance can indeed help with reaching one's goals, though one should also spread that compassion and support to others to change the narrative and improve the social climate present in this country. That is the main takeaway from this entire interview and how the narrative is changing for the better is that hopefully more people begin to also be a symbol of the counter-narrative and strive for improvement and reform in both the system and their views and expectations of both themselves and others for the greater good of everyone. As my mother said, which is incredibly indicative of what I believe, "this country needs people that are willing to put aside their differences and work together to resolve the issues affecting us today."

Article 2- Interviews with my dad and relatives

Second story

Adding on to this small, yet impactful story, I had an interview with my dad and there as being immigrants and how they were able to overcome discrimination and stereotypes to make their lives better, though with the added realization that the US is far from the American dream if so values and must continue to fight and change the ideas and beliefs we have had since the arrival of Europeans and Enlightenment ideas and change them for the better. These interviews, while posing fewer questions and generally being shorter than my mother's interviews still left a lasting impression on me as I was never made aware of it and while this issue is generally more about how being immigrants of a foreign nation affected their lifestyles both economically and socially, I still gathered important information and details on just how much enlightenment era ideas and expectations still hold back many. These stories however are examples of how change can occur by simply defying those expectations and overcoming the barriers and stereotypes that have been placed upon by Eurocentric ideas and beliefs to immigrants and foreigners to try to shun and alienate them from our society, working hard for both themselves and those around them to work towards a brighter future. For the interview with my father, I asked similar questions to the previous interview though with some different follow-up questions that tailor more to his personal experiences which I documented here as follows.

Interview with father:

Interview 2

Q: What were your first thoughts when arriving here in the US and traveling to Chicago? How did you feel about the social and racial climate present in the US as a whole?

A: When I first arrived here, I was engulfed in lots of sadness, fear, and loneliness. Of course, leaving my family behind was quite hard and the arduous journey did not make it easier. When I arrived here, the social, cultural, and racial climate present here was of course, unlike anything I experienced back in Mexico, so it took some adapting to get used to it. I didn't communicate with anyone here or establish relations as all I came here to do was to find work. Luckily, there were many other Latinos present here, especially Mexicans who spoke my tongue, so I was still in some ways able to communicate with others, just not in a permanent way. The racial climate here felt very tense as I saw it as others like myself were in constant fear of the dreaded law enforcement and being sent back to their home countries, which is something I've had a problem with ever since I first arrived here. Anyways, my first thoughts and feelings upon arrival were sad and lonely, though I was determined to find work somewhere and make a living to help me and my family back at home. As for the racial and social climate it was radically different from what I experienced in Mexico and not in a good way as it was clear to me the weariness and uneasiness of immigrants from Latin America were due to constant fear of deportation and the like by police officers which I've had my fair share of dealing with from time to time.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced in terms of finding work or support in Chicago?

A: I didn't have trouble finding work when I arrived in Chicago as jobs were plentiful within offices and factories which forced me to work more than two jobs a week to make a living, something that put me under strain though I had to do or else I'd have nothing to buy food with. The only real challenge that came with working like this was getting places as I didn't have a car at the time so I heavily relied on public transportation to get me places. Fortunately, the jobs paid enough to help me make ends meet, and the fact that people spoke Spanish at work also helped as I was able to communicate my needs and desires with other colleagues at factories. At first, I didn't have any emotional or social support from really anyone, though as time went on, I began finding ways to make my voice heard at work and during this time my family from Mexico began to arrive so the loneliness I experienced was beginning to dwindle.

Q: What were some things that gave you relief in terms of emotional and financial support?

A: As I mentioned before, now that my family started to arrive from Mexico after 4 years had passed since I arrived, I began to receive emotional support to help me continue moving forward as I worked hard. During this time I also found your mother which gave me emotional and financial support since we worked together at the same jobs, which were essentially cleaning services in both houses and office building, so I had finally established a stable source of income and began to raise a family of my own. This all gave me much-needed relief and I am thankful to both my brothers, parents and your mother for being there and supporting me as I worked hard to establish myself and a family. Things were beginning to look very good for me and your mother as we had a stable source of income and were working the same jobs to support each other.

Q: What are some accounts or stories you have experienced or know of where you or someone has experienced racial discrimination?

A: In the past, I've had encounters with police officers who have pulled me over, at many times for no apparent reason other than to just make sure nothing fishy was happening and to check my paperwork which I always had available to make sure I wasn't caught and deported. Given that I loved this country for essentially giving me a second chance at life and an opportunity to thrive by finding adequate work that was unavailable in Mexico and also helping establish my life and family here, I couldn't be deported so I always ensured I followed the law as I had done so for many years both on the road and anywhere I went. I've always had an uneasy relationship with law enforcement despite striving to respect the laws since these small encounters occur once in a while and made this already uneasy relationship that much more unsteady. It's almost as if I was being targeted personally just for being Latino, which I believe was the case as I've also heard of similar encounters with other people I know. However, the experience that truly rattled me and my entire family was the situation that happened with my now deceased brother who was killed, I believe in cold blood by police officers for trying to run away after asked to stop at an intersection. To this day, I'm still unsure of what happened to my brother as we were unable to get the details of what he did and why he was killed, but I believe it to be a case of racial discrimination for several reasons as he was just returning to his house after he had been at our house to have a chat. After he left, however, I had a strange feeling though I wasn't sure what to make of it. That afternoon was the day this incident occurred in which he was shot dead by a police officer in an alleyway near my other brother's house. We were not notified about this until a day later when we realized he was missing and went searching for him or any other details that could help us find him. I've also experienced discrimination at work through being unable to voice my needs or thoughts to my employers, which emotionally impacted me as at times I didn't receive compensation or days off due to my lack of paperwork that forced me to work twice as hard to offset the lack of benefits I received at work. Without a doubt though, the most discrimination I've experienced has come from law enforcement that has always instilled fear and anger within me for years.

Q: Adding on to that specific experience, how did this tragedy impact you and the family as a whole?

A: Well, this of course completely shocked everyone and we were all filled with tremendous sorrow and guilt of his death. He was only 27 years old and the fact he was killed by police officers made his death that much more impactful. Additionally, we were all immigrants as well, and thus finding a way to see what happened and demand justice for a seemingly unreasonable death as a result of abuse of power was incredibly difficult. The lawyer we had consulted was unable to help us and we as immigrants were unable to do inquire or file a report to law enforcement due to fear of contesting a powerful entity that had us believe we would surely be deported back to our countries since we weren't citizens of this country and were on thin ice when it came to paperwork. This was a very emotionally difficult situation that still affects me

and the family to this day and I feel immense regret for having done nothing to find justice for my brother, though I simply was unable to do to my status as an undocumented immigrant during that time. With no real information or explanation as to why he was murdered, we couldn't find a way to combat law enforcement and demand for justice and so his death largely remains a mystery to us. At this point, I can only hope that we one day find out what happened and see if there is anything we can do to demand justice for a death I and other family members was unwarranted and a result of racial discrimination. Seeing other cases of police brutality around the country and here in Chicago still gives me a reminder of this tragic incident and hopefully, as the country itself begins to realize the true side of law enforcement and their lethality that caused the unjust deaths of many, we can begin to see change and hopefully, I can find out what happened to my brother on that fateful day. His death is an example of the injustice present in this country and while we were unable to receive information and find justice for his death, I'm hoping now we will have the opportunity to find out what happened and put to rest the case of my brother's death.

Q: What would you recommend in similar places about either the systems present in the US or how to adapt to the racial and social climate to help them also overcome these struggles?

A: What I would recommend to someone who is also an immigrant about how the systems in the US function and how to adapt to the racial and social climate here is to, of course, be prepared and ready to adapt to what I assume would be a radically different environment for them that they have probably not experienced. The second thing would be to behave well and not look for any trouble with shady folks and strive to be a law-abiding citizen as this will ensure you won't be found suspicious or have anything that might be incriminating evidence against you. The third and final thing I would recommend is to come here to work hard and strive to be a good citizen as coming here and staying for any other purpose that isn't both will not work out well for you in the long run. You must be ready to work hard to reach your goals and ensure you follow the laws of this country so you may be able to defend yourself against discrimination either through law enforcement or at work since immigrants have rights and a voice and should be able to combat the ongoing racial discrimination present within this nation to this day. As long as you do this, you should have an easier time, though of course not with any struggles or hardships at times so always strive to become something more and never give up as there is no other way to stay afloat in this country that sadly forces immigrants like us to work hard, because of that your work is twice as important than others who have it easier.

Q: What are your final thoughts on how the system today has impacted the ability of you and others to succeed and additionally, how can it improve?

A: Overall, my final thoughts on how the system has impacted my ability to succeed within the US is not necessarily what the system has directly caused but the fact that I lack higher education and paperwork which have forced me to work two factory jobs for almost 6 days a week non-stop to make ends meet for my family, which is sadly just how the system has been created

which favors those with higher education more by giving them higher wages for only one job rather than multiple. I still have yet to get my paperwork in check but I'm hoping that given the fact that I'm starting to inform myself more upon the rights and benefits available for me and able to look into more legal work to find ways to help me get said paperwork ready. I can one day finally have the paperwork I need to work more higher-earning jobs. Though this may be the case, I'm still able to provide for my family and give them what they need and want. I want my children to succeed and do things I never was able to do in my youth. This is the reason I work hard and why I encourage you to study hard in school so you can become successful and leave your mark. I wish this to all my family so that they may be more than what we could ever be, which is why I am laying the groundwork to allow for that success to come to fruition. I only hope for the best for those who come after me and while I do this I am also supporting both my family in Mexico and your mother's family in Guatemala to give them financial aid. As for how the system can improve, I think reform in immigration laws can help mitigate the current problems present at the border between the US and Mexico and allow for a speedier and more efficient process of applications for those seeking work or asylum in the US. As for local laws, I feel that allowing immigrants to also participate in voting, thus allowing people like me to exercise the important civic duties despite not having paperwork completely in check. That's what I think anyway though I understand why others may not see that as a resolution. So with this, I think it's safe to say that I've seen the reality of the country's systems and how they impact immigrants whether it be positive or negative, though one thing remains clear and that is the ability for one to succeed despite the odds being clearly against them in most cases. It's truly a testament to changing times that I hope will begin to change more as more people are standing up to the idea of disrupting this current system and doing just that to demand for change, something I hope to be a part of to find out what happened to my brother and curb that systemic racism we have seen for so many years. Those are my final thoughts and overall, I feel this interview was very important both in terms of reflecting on my past experiences and coming to terms with those negative experiences so that I may move forward. I thank this country for what it has offered me in terms of work and economic prosperity that has allowed me to settle down and build my future with my family and

Analysis and thoughts

After having conducted this interview and writing down my final thoughts, I feel my father's story, especially his experiences with law enforcement both through small encounters and the incident that resulted in the death of his brother, really opened my eyes to the extent of police brutality and how it deeply affects many, including my family. The story of my brother's death stands as a sorrow, yet a stark example of the consequences of a system that gave many privileges to those in power and thus allowed for racial discrimination towards those underneath the law. While this power structure is indeed necessary to enforce the law carried out by this land, systemic racism has plagued this system since its inception that is meant to serve its inhabitants and establish good relations rather than have them in constant fear and anxiety. This

inception can be traced back to the Enlightenment ideals brought by the Europeans in which they pronounced that those who were like them in both race and wealth were to be granted the privilege to essentially govern those deemed inferior, in this case, the mulattoes and Africans brought from the mainland and to the New World to be slaves for plantations which of course involved harsh and brutal work with no pay or freedom. While quotes such as “No man has any natural authority over his fellow men.” had been proclaimed and supported the idea that all men were created equal, the social context that they were told essentially meant that these rights or freedoms only applied to rich, white men, and the idea that no man should have any natural authority over his fellow men was quite contrary to what was happening as Europeans had literal slaves they asserted control over, contradicting this entire idea and causing a division in perspective we see present today. It drives home how the system has impacted systems that forced them to be heavily dictated by these ideals and therefore resulted in the police brutality against minority groups we see present today since while this specific incident occurred more than 10 years ago in 2007, we are still seeing these incidents occur such as the recent killing of Adam Toledo here in Chicago, an incident that has sparked major controversy and reminds us of this lingering injustice still present within our systems.

Though this may be the case, my father was able to move on from this tragic and traumatic experience he faced where he was put under constant fear and pressure as he traveled to Mexico and back to put his brother’s corpse to rest and it goes to show the tremendous struggle and strife he went through during this time, not to mention the following crises that would ensue later on such as the Financial Crisis of 2008. All this however stands as a testament to his determination and perseverance to not give up after this discouraging and tragic event that left its impact on our entire family. He still strives to work incredibly hard and as a result, we are here today standing, still going strong, and hoping to accomplish more to bring our family together. He hopes that I and my siblings can pass on his achievements and accomplish even greater things. To that, I am grateful and hope that one day we can uncover the details of the killing of my dad’s brother and see if justice can be served to what appeared to be an unlawful death. Whatever the case may be, his testimonies and experiences have created him into the person he is today. Someone who has successfully worked their entire lives to reach their current position and plans to achieve even more thanks to what this country has offered him in terms of job opportunities. I can only hope that this will spark more action within me and my family to rise and stand up for what is right in terms of defending ourselves and others against police brutality and discrimination and calling for the change needed to combat it. As my father put up once we had wrapped up our interview, “We must strive to help one another and call forth the change and reform of our current day systems needed to give not only immigrants but others as well and truly grant the equality and freedoms that everyone deserves”

Article 3 and final thoughts-

Third and Final Story

To wrap up my two interviews and gain some final input about immigrant experiences and how their struggle and strife to overcome barriers and struggles allowed them to succeed, I decided to conduct one final interview with my aunt about her experiences coming from Nicaragua and how she managed to overcome those obstacles to be where she is at, while not crazy rich or anything, of course, is a great and stable economic and social standing despite her original status as an immigrant woman from Nicaragua. Here are the interview questions and responses as follows:

Interview 3

Q: What were your first thoughts when arriving here in the US and traveling to Chicago? How did you feel about the social and racial climate present in the US as a whole?

A: The reason why I had arrived here in the first place was due to someone recommending they work for them in Chicago. Seeing this as an opportunity and the fact that this person was a member of a large organization known as the Agency of International Development or AID that aims at helping other developing countries through small endeavors as evidenced by their willingness to help my aunt receive her first job here in America. I was quite eager to begin work here in the US since in Nicaragua not many jobs were available that provided decent pay and work conditions, so I took this opportunity to come to America to work as I hoped it would provide me with better economic opportunities. However, when I arrived here, the person that had contracted me to work with them did so by forcing me to babysit their children and live with them. That would have been fine if it weren't for the fact that I was being held as a slave, forced to work the entire week with absolutely no pay whatsoever. So with that, I immediately began to feel betrayed and lied to since I was never told I had to do this, and I was exploited and used to take care of children without pay, which negatively impacted me both emotionally and financially. While the social and racial climate present in the US as a whole was quite tense and especially during the time I was working with this person due to not knowing the language and feeling silenced and exploited for my labor and overall, I felt scared and quite lonely when I first arrived here which was exacerbated by this unfair labor practice I experienced.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced in terms of finding work or support in Chicago?

A: The challenge I faced after finally leaving this job was seeking support to demand action against this person for the mistreatment I faced while working for this person. While I was able to find and contract lawyers to help me with this issue, they were unable to help me, mostly because I did not have any of the proper paperwork since at the time I only had my visa which was soon to expire in the upcoming months. Furthermore, taking legal action against this person proved to be a challenge as I was told they were in a high position and therefore would be incredibly difficult to file any lawsuits against them and since I was too scared to try and find other solutions, this case was never fully resolved. Finding jobs, while not tough, proved to pay very little and were quite demanding, forcing me to work more than two jobs almost every day of

the week. This continued for some time until I eventually did find the support I needed to help me continue forward both emotionally and economically.

Q: What were some things that gave you relief in terms of emotional and financial support?

A: As I said previously after a few months had passed since the time I arrived in Chicago I began to find the support I needed to assist me through an organization I found one day known as World Relief Chicagoland. It was there that I was able to have my visa extended through their immigration legal services and thus I was able to continue staying in Chicago. This was very much needed as it allowed me to move on from these past experiences and so I found jobs that while did not pay much, were enough to make ends meet, though it forced me to work incredibly hard to do so. In terms of emotional support, this organization helped as now I no longer had to live in fear, isolation, and regret and I started to meet new people such as your uncle and the rest of the family that also helped me move forward. While I was never able to fully resolve the case, I did receive financial support and compensation for what happened to me and I have thankfully moved on from this traumatic experience.

Q: What are some accounts or stories you have experienced or know of where you or someone has experienced racial discrimination?

A: The story that I talked about earlier is a very strong example of how I experienced discrimination here, but at other workplaces, I also experienced, specifically factories where we were forced to work incredibly hard at low wages to make a living out of very low pay. It was there where I realized we were being discriminated against for being both temporary workers and Hispanic as the permanent workers there were not forced to work as hard due to the fact they were unionized and thus forced us to do most of the work, those who were temporary and more often than not Hispanic. Most of this racial discrimination I have found at work and overall, I have heard countless stories of how other immigrants also were forced to do grueling work for low wages because of unfair labor practices.

Q: What would you recommend in similar places about either the systems present in the US or how to adapt to the racial and social climate to help them also overcome these struggles?

A: I would recommend that you know the rights available to use as an immigrant and defend yourself from unfair labor practices and exploitation you may encounter for being an immigrant. I have seen how many employers, especially at factories, use the ignorance of many immigrants who are unaware of their rights to their advantage by forcibly making them work harder and paying them less to do more, something quite beneficial to their profit margins. So just be aware of these rights and seek organizations that will help you legally and financially to overcome the tremendous barriers that come with being an immigrant from these countries that could prove dangerous if you are left in the unknown and get caught by law enforcement, prompting deportation. That's all I would recommend, just remember that you have rights as an individual

and should be treated as a human being and not a pawn for employers seeking to exploit those who are vulnerable.

Q: What are your final thoughts on how the system today has impacted the ability of you and others to succeed and additionally, how can it improve?

A: My final thoughts on the system and how it has impacted my ability to succeed is that while it is of rouse improving, such as the presence of more immigration services available to those seeking support, it still has a lot of room for improvement and the system overall has much to do to tackle the glaring issues it still possesses as a result of those Enlightenment ideas brought by the Europeans. My ability to succeed has mostly been hindered by the system due to the unfair labor practices and conditions I have had to endure at work. We need more laws and regulations that are enforced to combat these issues present within the workplace, which I have seen improve thankfully, though of course it still needs to be improved more to fully resolve these issues. All of this is needed to see the system and the lives of immigrants improve within it as this will eradicate the fears and anxiety of many immigrants who have traveled from their home country to here for a better life. Those are my final thoughts and I hope to one day see this improve for the better as I work hard towards a brighter future for both me and my family.

Final thoughts

After this last interview, I have realized many of the hardships and struggles one goes through to achieve their goals and dreams in this country. It comes as no surprise to see many struggles as the current systems and the narrative, in general, have severely affected the ability of many to succeed. The main takeaways and ideas I understood and received from these interviews were that the hurdles and obstacles that come with being an undocumented immigrant and integrating into a system that has been built to make it very difficult for immigrants to even arrive or safely reside in the US are incredibly large and seeing the struggle and fear manifest with these interviews is truly profound and impactful. These accounts of racial discrimination experienced at work such as the experiences of both my mother and aunt and the hardships they underwent while working with employers who used unfair labor practices to exploit and make the most out of their labor, using them as pawns to take advantage of their vulnerable status as an immigrant with no outside support. The other places where racial discrimination can be found are with law enforcement, which we see clear examples of through my dad who has encountered the police multiple times, being stopped and questioned for looking suspicious and such. The story of how his brother was killed at the hands of law enforcement speaks volumes to me at how systemic racism that has been present since the arrival of the Europeans and their Enlightenment ideas which in turn caused these ideas to be embedded within the very foundation of our current political, economic systems, with ideas that still dictate how they are run and cause the racial discrimination through systemic racism established during these times that we still see witness today.

While these examples serve as reminders of how the system still has these racial and discriminatory/stereotypical ideas still in place, it also serves to remind us of the power and determination within these individuals, defying those stereotypes and discriminatory ideas and overcoming those tremendously great and intimidating obstacles that heavily impeded their ability to succeed, but despite all that, they still have successfully achieved many great things both economically and socially. Both my parents and aunt have well-paying jobs that keep our family afloat and have allowed them to support themselves and their families back at home. While this may not seem like much, their stories and how they worked hard to overcome discrimination and stereotypes stand as a testament to their strength and are symbols of how the narrative is beginning to shift, shift in ways that provide benefits for both them and others who have historically been oppressed and silenced by the system. It is only a matter of time before we finally uncover the case of my uncle's death and other acts of discrimination that have affected my family members to receive the justice that has been needed for many years. Those Enlightenment ideas that have previously acted as hurdles to our progression as a society are now beginning to be used as pieces against their narratives such as the idea that all are equal which once only referred to specific individuals in power is now beginning to be reworked to be applied to everyone. These are the changes that we are seeing and the changes we need to make to completely amend our system and make the counter-narrative the true narrative. Once this is done, we can truly call the negative impact of the Enlightenment a thing of the past. These people and their stories serve as symbols and thus more evidence to how the counter-narrative is changing our way of thinking and perspectives about the lives of these people and their ability to succeed. This investigation into the lives and stories of my family members has impacted me and I hope whoever reads this feels the same as well. In conclusion, the counter-narrative and the figures demanding change and the symbols representing that shift and change are immensely profound and will only continue to work towards fighting the current narrative and the legacy and consequences of the Enlightenment era.

The Same Coin, Different Side

We are the same
Yet different
I am hated
I am less
I am not deserving
of this chance
You are loved
You are more
You deserve
The world
Why?
We are the same,
despite the shade

Every year millions of people try to migrate to the United States. Many of these people can't make it due to hard border control or organizations such as ICE. Those who don't make it have not managed to cross the border or do not have enough money and/or resilience to go on. Most people who have always been able to type these documents would be asking why the person didn't decide to do things legally, get a visa maybe even a citizenship? Well the answer is that most people don't get the chance to even apply much less get accepted. This is a big flaw because most of the people wanting to immigrate to America are going there because they want a better life, opportunities, and just to be more safe. Now that we know this we can get to understand some of the reasons how white immigrants have a better chance of getting accepted and living more normally than a person of color immigrant would. White people live better lives through language, a systemic racist system, and visa/citizenship acceptance rate. Thankfully there are still people that can thrive despite these conditions, an example of this is my father.

The first reason is obviously a difference in languages. While you may say that most European countries have their own language, those people do indeed still learn English because it is provided to them. Most countries people of color come from are generally less wealthy thus they can't pay for school and/or have limited education. An example of this is that in the European Education most students are required to learn more than one language so even if it was a country like France that speaks French, students would be most likely to learn English. We know this because in the article, *More than any other foreign language, European youths learn English* (2015), "In fact, studying a second foreign language for at least one year is compulsory in more than 20 European nations." This shows that the likelihood of a European person knowing English is high. Knowing this would make it easier in the US because they would be able to understand what is going on around them and what people are saying. It also makes it easier for a person to apply to jobs. We know the levels of education are different based on the

article *Key findings about U.S. immigrants, 2020* in which it shows different levels of education based on countries. Such as Europe having 11% of people having less than a high school education compared to the 54% of people from Mexico. This difference in education is a key factor; despite the limited knowledge, many disruptors make ends meet through intuition and time.

The second reason why white immigrants have an easier life in the US compared to a person of color is the systemic racism in the US. We see this in our everyday life whether it is just in the difference in service at a fast food restaurant or by cops being more vigilant around people of color more so than a white skinned person. An example of this we can see in the treatment of not only work opportunities but in how immigration handles them. In the article *US immigration policy: A classic, unappreciated example of structural racism (2021)*, the article talks about different treatments between immigrants of color and white immigrants, stating “In sharp contrast to today’s undocumented population, “illegal” European immigrants faced few repercussions. There was virtually no immigration enforcement infrastructure. If caught, few faced deportation.” This vastly contrasts with other reports in treatment of immigrants that are people of color. In my other essay I will cover more on specific examples of treatments in races but this information shows how deeply rooted the racism is in the system that makes it harder for other people to get by in this country. Knowing this, it really shows how hard disruptors can work in order to survive in a country that was made to go against them, all for themselves and for their children.

The third and final reason is the visa/citizenship acceptance rates being drastically different depending on race. Now while we may not find clear data that specifically states that one race is granted more visas/citizenships than another we can know by observing the difference in different data. Such data is mentioned in the article *Frequently Requested Statistics Immigrants and Immigration in the United States (2021)*, in which it states that “Mexicans and Central Americans accounted for roughly two-thirds (68 percent, or 7.4 million) of U.S. unauthorized immigrants as of 2014-18, MPI estimates,” “In 2019, 45 percent of immigrants reported their race as single-race White,” and “In 2019, 44 percent of U.S. immigrants (19.8 million people) reported having Hispanic or Latino origins.” This shows that although it can be said that there is a similar division between the white race and another race like hispanics when looking at how many of them are considered unauthorized, hispanics make up for 68 percent which is unsettling much more. This difference in authorized and unauthorized immigrants based on race is even more apparent with the last two paragraphs, especially the second in which even unauthorized white immigrants are much less likely to be deported. Thus since being an authorized immigrant is much more likely they don’t have to worry as much as an unauthorized person would with all the legal problems. All these legal problems make it harder for an immigrant that is a person of color to live in this country, yet despite that, some still find ways to make it through and thrive.

From what I have seen is that many immigrants that are people of color still push through many obstacles that are put against them such as understanding what people are saying, treatment, or even being able to get a visa. In my next essay I will be comparing different experiences in the U.S. based on race with my father and a second hand white person’s account.

In my last essay I talked about systemic racism in the United States. In this essay I am here to talk about accounts from people, one first-hand, the other second-hand with how they

were treated in the United States. These different experiences will hopefully show in more close detail the difference of treatments in the US; and how my disruptor, my father, went against the idea that poor people should stay where they are, immigrants can't succeed, and that he made it despite the hard obstacles he went through.

The first experience I will get into today will be about my father's first-hand experience of when he first arrived in the United States. I will be translating what he said in Spanish into English. Here is the interview:

Me: What kind of place did you think the US was before you came here?

Dad: I did not know much but I had always heard from everyone that the United States was the land of opportunity, that you could do anything in America.

Me: Did the US live up to your expectations?

Dad: Yes and no. Yes in the sense that the money I gained in an hour here was much more than I could have ever gained in Mexico but no in the sense that most other opportunities, I could not reach or even have.

Me: Since coming to the US, what is the first racist, rude, or unfair treatment you experienced that has stuck with you?

Dad: When I first came to this country, I knew nothing. Not even the language. Back then it was much more close minded then today so when I had my first job, the people there were really rude. Although I knew barely any English from on the way, I still understood when someone was talking bad about me, insulting me, and mocking me. I may not know your language but I do know what feeling you are conveying. Body language beats language, you know, but they clearly did not know. Another experience I still remember is when my employers tried to cut my pay. They thought I didn't know how to do simple math. I don't think they knew that math like that doesn't require language. The thing that I disliked the most was that I couldn't really complain because what if the police came, so the most I could do was quit and find a different job.

Me: Do you fear the police?

Dad: No but it does concern me that if I get deported something will happen to you and your siblings. I don't want you guys to have a harder time making it in this country because I am not here to cover the finance part while you go to college.

Me: Do you think it was worth it coming to the US?

Dad: Yes, because you guys have all the opportunities I could never have even dreamed of when I was in Mexico. I don't have to worry as much that you might be taken by a cartel. Haha

The second experience is from a "white passing" American and her experience. This second-hand experience is from an article called, *I'm a White Immigrant and I Benefited From a Racist Visa Lottery* (2016). In this article a immigrant from Italy talks about how she got a visa to

study in the United States and how she experienced a very different treatment than other foreign exchange students. The article goes into more detail of how her background made things easier for her to get to where she is, the associate director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy in Chicago. She mentions how she got a visa and that although it was a “lottery” it really wasn’t. She states that the first time it was conducted it was, “At the time, unlike a true lottery, the visas were awarded first-come, first-serve with no restrictions on the number of applications per person.” Later it begins to talk about how Irish communities could make organizations that helped them get their applications first which shows the injustices and unfairness in getting visas. Luckily in the next lotteries, it became truly a lottery but this is just one example of how white people have an easier time in getting visas and citizenships.

Looking at these two experiences I clearly see a big gap between them. A way to show how my father is a disruptor through these experiences is that we first can look at enlightened ideas from back then such as, “the poor man “to rest contented with that state or condition in which it hath pleased God to rank him” “in much knowledge the Lord has divided them and made their ways diverse” Robert Moss, Native “Americans and Negroes can’t govern themselves... Thus they serve only as slaves,” and Kant “Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans” Montesquieu.’

The first one conveys that poor people should not try to go beyond their limits because others will put them back in their place and this is seen in different opportunities. While the White immigrant got a visa and could go to learn in college with scholarships why father had to go work in a place that discriminated against him. My father however managed to endure this treatment and gained a favorable reputation that in the present day landed him a job that was way better than his restaurant job.

The second one conveys that people of color don’t know what to do with their lives so they can decide. However this is not true as seen that many people come to this country in hopes of having a better life and/or for their kids. We can see these dreams in both which show no difference between white immigrants and people of color immigrants despite their different treatments. My father shows these dreams to go on through me and my siblings.

The third quote is proven to be wrong by white immigrants themselves. The treatment of people of color is not exaggerated. In fact it is very much shocking how people of color are treated compared to white immigrants. This can be proven through first-hand experiences from my dad describing how they treated him to the white immigrant second-hand account describing how they were shocked with the difference in treatments. However despite that my father managed to be happy and have a stable income.

My father, an example of being a disruptor to these expectations, in my opinion is best described by the quote “To live is not to breathe but to act. It is to make use of our organs, our senses, our faculties, of all the parts of ourselves which give us the sentiment of our existence. The man who has lived the most is not he who has counted the most years but he who has most felt life.”

— Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile, or On Education.*”

My father strived in this country by using all his efforts, enduring all the discrimination, and believing; and all these qualities are what made him a disruptor.

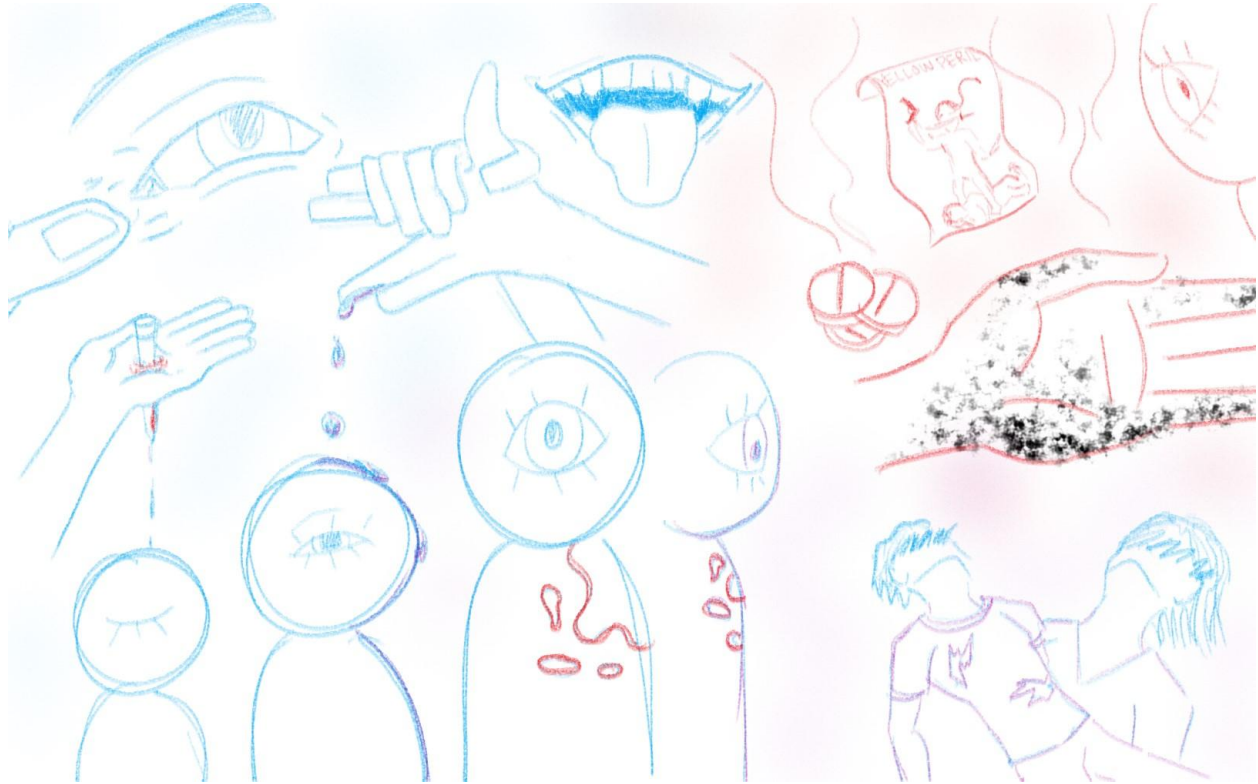
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Enlightenment Legacy Project

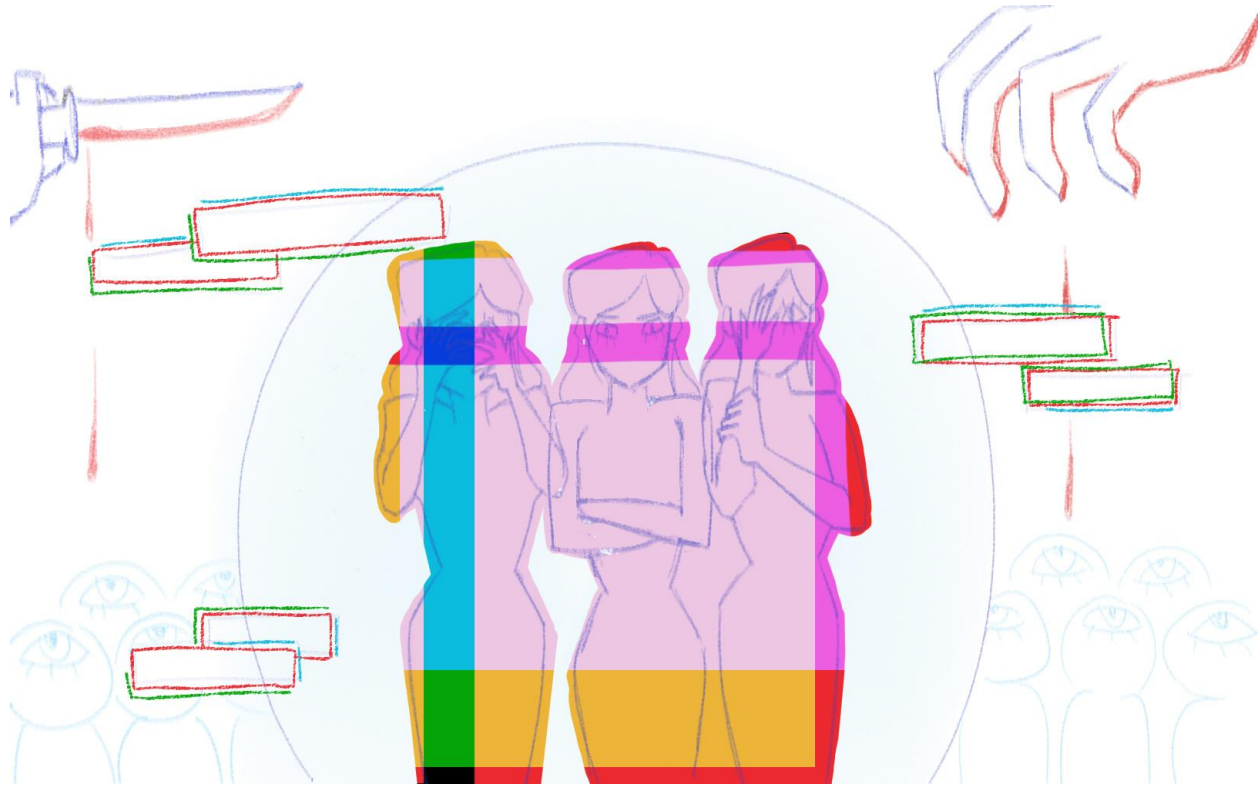
I interviewed two people for this project, (both that I chose for the third interview not wanting to participate). The image I made for the first interviewee is shown below:



The first interviewee described their experience with anti-Asian hate in their school community as peers stereotyping and making fun of them. Examples of this include pulling their eyes to make it slanted, joking about eating dogs, and stereotypes such as being good at math because they were Asian. In the image, the blue part represents the interviewee's experience. The hand with the pencil stabbed through it represents harmful stereotypes against Asians (in the interviewee's case, it was that all Asians are smart). The dog hand symbol accompanied by the mouth represents racist jokes, such as that Asians eat dogs. Lastly, there is a smiling eye pulling the corner of it, showing mockery (though light-hearted). The interviewee describes not being fully aware of discrimination at a young age, but very quickly becoming aware of it. This is represented by the eye slowly waking up as its body grows. The blood dripping onto the heads represents microaggressions that eventually wake them up. At first the blood is blue, and then it is purple, turning the interviewee purple. Finally, it is red and splotted on the fully-awake person, showing complete awareness and understanding. To the right of this image are dead bodies, and the fully-awake interviewee gazing at them. This represents their understanding of discrimination now, especially in times of the pandemic where hate crimes against Asians are surging. Above, in red, is a person looking back at a dirtied hand, a propaganda poster, and drugs. These represent how the Europeans thought of Asians: dirty, carrying disease, addicts, and people disrupting the peace (the propaganda poster). The red portion of the image

connects the interview to the Enlightenment quote: “Weak minds exaggerate too much the wrong done to the Africans.” Montesquieu, replacing Africans with Asians. The interviewee described their experience as mostly when they were younger, where many of their peers decided to reinforce racist ideas (such as expressing disgust at the thought of all Asians eating dogs) in jest. This presumed dirtiness of Asians stems from early beliefs that those kinds of people are dirty, will do anything for themselves, and carry disease. The dead bodies in the bottom right corner show how people who hate crime Asians (especially now) believe that they deserve it, and this is their punishment. Similar sentiments were shared back then against people of colour, and that those who fought against oppression were weak of mind because those oppressed were ultimately deserving.

The image I made for the second interviewee is shown below:



The second interviewee described their experience of discrimination in their school community as looking outside at others being oppressed while being sheltered. Most of what they see of their peers being discriminatory is online and against their broader community rather than the interviewee themselves. The three people in the bubble represent the interviewee sheltering themselves, and the covered eyes and closed arms represent protecting one’s self. The glitching represents what they see online, and the hands and knife dripping blood on a crowd represents them seeing others outside their bubble discriminating against their community. The image and interview connect to the Enlightenment quote “All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions.” (John Locke) by showing how the interviewee is reluctant to step out of their bubble to avoid getting hurt by others and to stay within a safe place with those who don’t discriminate against them. By keeping themselves away from negativity outside of their safe space and instead surrounding

themselves with positive influences, they and their positive influences reinforce the Enlightenment ideal that no one ought to harm anybody else, for whatever reason. They, who believe the discrimination they see is wrong, by looking away from it and focusing on those who also think that it's wrong, the interviewee shows they believe everyone should be equal and deserves the right to their own safe space, away from hate and oppression.

The first interviewee also elaborates on this, saying, "What makes you think that was right? Why didn't anyone say it wasn't to you?" in reference to those who made racist comments. They wonder why no one ever bothered to educate those people on why what they were doing was wrong. Continuing on this track, they proposed that those who experience this kind of discrimination should either ignore the perpetrator or tell a trusted person, because they also believe everyone deserves the right to a safe space free of judgement and/or hate.

Investigating the Counter-Narrative Reporting Project Grading Guide

Teacher Requirements

| Teacher Requirements | Proof of meeting or exceeding requirements | Proof of basic meeting of requirements | Proof of basic requirements not being met |
|--|---|--|---|
| Incorporate the quotes and ideals from the Enlightenment that established the system of A-Privilege and B-Discrimination | -The Enlightenment quotes of both privilege and discrimination are clearly included in the project and specifically analyzed as a historical legacy. | -The Enlightenment quotes are referenced but not clearly or specifically when analyzing the legacy. OR -One Enlightenment quote is fully incorporated while the other is not. | -The Enlightenment quotes are not referenced clearly or specifically analyzed. |
| Investigate and report on the disruptor or creation of the counter narrative for the issue you have chosen to explore. | -A thorough investigation identifies a local person or group who is a disruptor or symbolizes the counter narrative. -The example clearly connects to the Enlightenment concept. | -An investigation identifies a local person or group who is a disruptor or symbolizes the counter narrative. -The example connects to the Enlightenment concept but may not be thorough or clear. | -It is not apparent that an investigation identifies a local person or group who is a disruptor or symbolizes the counter narrative. -The example is not connected to the Enlightenment concept. |
| Create a way to express your reporting | -A creative tangible expression is created whether it be written, spoken, photographed, etc. | -A tangible expression is created whether it be written, spoken, photographed, etc. | -Little is done to create a tangible expression. |
| Flipgrid recording | -All required questions are answered in the Flipgrid recording -Camera is on and 5 minutes are used. | -Most required questions are answered in the Flipgrid recording. -Camera is on and 4 minutes or less are used. | -Few required questions are answered in the Flipgrid recording. -Camera may be off and 2 minutes or less are used. |
| Clear presentation of counter narrative reported by you | See below Individual students will create their rubrics based on their project ideas. | | |

Student Choice in Project

Requirements created by individual student

This could change as you move through the development of your project

| Counter narrative/ Disruptor requirements | Proof of meeting or exceeding requirements | Proof of basic meeting of requirements | Proof of basic requirements not being met |
|--|---|--|---|
| I am able to capture the words of my interview and bring light to the issue | Reader should be able to clearly see the issue present throughout the story and the success at the end. | Reader understands the issue but it is not clearly expressed/emphasized. | Reader is confused about the issue. |
| I am able to capture the struggle present in my mom's story through a poem | Poem flows well and allows one to understand the issue as well as the success. | Poem is a little rough but still captures the main issue | Poem does not flow well nor captures the issue. |
| I am able to create a poem that relates Europe's past to discrimination and privilege. | Reader is able to understand Europe's past in discrimination and the Enlightenment privilege quote. | Reader is able to somewhat understand Europe's past in discrimination and the Enlightenment privilege quote. | Reader is unable to understand Europe's past in discrimination and the Enlightenment privilege quote. |

Disruptor interview - Father

My father immigrated with his family to America from India looking for a better life and not

knowing what to expect. However, unlike most immigrants, my father didn't come here because he

had a hard time growing up in India. Rather, he stated that before coming here "he barely had to lift

a finger." My grandfather or my dad's father was an administrative officer managing over 700

workers in three shifts. This allowed for them to have three houses as well as many servants who

helped take care of them. When I asked why he immigrated to India he related that being a Muslim

in India and finding a job was very hard and his father was worried his kids wouldn't be able to get

jobs and start a life for themselves. Like most immigrants, however, he didn't have it so easy. After

school, he would work at a laundromat to help earn money for his family. When I asked if he had any stories of being discriminated against, he shared this one with me. "One day, while I was working a white man came in with his kid and pointed at me while he addressed his kid saying "Remember that movie" my father stated that he at the time had no idea what the movie was but later found out it consisted of a poor man who worked at a laundromat and died never being able to achieve his goals in life. My father then relates that the white man was yelling at his kid to study

or else he'd end up like him, him being my father. "It's something that stuck with me throughout the years" my father stated at the end of his story. My father mentioned another story when I prompted him with the topic of school. He mentioned how middle school kids in busses would bully him and his brothers as they would walk to highschool, shouting obscenities such as "Hey you Ghandi" or "Go back to your country." My father stated that they used to try to avoid the times

where the busses would pass and deliberately try to take other paths to school "We knew we had to

ignore these words and focus on the bigger picture to get somewhere in life" my father says as he finishes his story. I then asked him how he was able to get to where he is now and he told me about the many jobs he had done. Once he, his brothers, and dad had saved up enough money by

working jobs and selling their property in India, they were able to buy a gas station. He quit working at the laundromat and started working as a cashier at the gas station. When asked about his schedule he told me he would work 12 hour shifts from evening to morning then go home and get changed and go to school. Only after coming back from school would he sleep, only to have to get up to go work at the gas station a few hours later. After a while, they sold the gas station to move to the suburbs where my dad started working at a computer warehouse. His job was to receive new products and then log them into the inventory and stack them on the shelves. He also drove a forklift and a truck to transport items from offsite to the main warehouse. My father told me how the police would always follow him home after he left the computer warehouse. "They used to follow me from the moment I left the warehouse to all the way back home...I remember being terrified the entire way." After working at the warehouse, he got a job at Motorola's assembly line making cell tower components. He worked 12 hour shifts for 3 days one week then 4 days the next. At this time, my dad said he had finished high school and started going to college. When I asked how much he was paid he said about \$10 an hour. Motorola had an opening for a software engineer, seeing this my dad decided to apply. He ended up getting the job, allowing him to receive a higher pay of \$30 an hour. However, he ended up quitting the job to work at a health insurance company for \$35 an hour where he worked on software support. Finally, he applied for At&t and thanks to all his experience in working with technology, he was able to get the job he has today,

making up to \$60 an hour. After all his years working countless jobs and facing many challenges including discrimination, he would finally be able to settle down and start his family.

Disruptor Poem - Mother

In this very city that we live in
How many women are within
That have never been allowed the chance
To learn, to study, to advance.

My mother herself has a story
One of which fits this category.
She had just finished college
And was ready to further her knowledge
She applied for university
And stayed adamant in the face of adversity

Her uncle had come to speak to her parents
With the hope of convincing them
Against this idea that was new to him
My mother felt fear rise within her
Tears, as her vision started to blur
But just as quickly as the emotions had spurred
Her parents said his idea was absurd
and once again all tension disappeared

So now, a reminder for all of us
For those who dispute and make a fuss
Claiming women shouldn't learn
I hope you take my mother's story in good turn
Now she stands
A masters degree she holds in her hands
Showing the world what a woman can do
All by being herself through and through.

Enlightenment Poem - European Past

How different was the view of Europeans

From what their hands wrote to what their minds thought
They claimed all mankind to be equal and independent
Yet to their own rules they were not attendant.
They viewed Muslims as misguided
Lands filled with people, non-white, primitive, and divided.
They claimed a woman's life was for serving a man
Her education, her talents, her words, held no other service.

They claimed the West built the East
And they were better because they had a priest
They viewed the West as modern, rational, Christian, and white
While the East as barbaric, emotional, Islamic, and always in a fight
Thus came the term orientalism
A stereotype of intense racism.
So tell me Europeans of the past
What happened to the equality that was broadcast?

To raise, to be useful, to respect, and to please men
They claimed these as the duties of women
They ignored how every person is their own, independent and complex
Instead they regarded women merely as objects
So tell me Europeans of the past
What happened to the independence that was broadcast?

Oh Europeans of the past
Let me answer the questions I have asked,
The freedom promised throughout the nation?
Its roots lay in relentless degradation
Sexism, racism, orientalism
Twisted deep, built into generations

And so today the people march and write
Standing up for equal rights
Young and old, weak and strong,
Generations working to end what is wrong
May these words propagate our dream
"Equality for all" we shall always scream.

Catherine Rivera's Story (2019)

Sitting outside of a restaurant with a couple of friends feeling the breeze blowing across my hair. "Have you guys seen what has been going on in the news?" one of her friends said as they started discussing their thought processes and talked about the experiences they have experienced.

"And I came home and I was so confused. It just made me so uncomfortable," one of her friends said just finishing her story.

"Wow. I remember if he even remembers doing that," another one of Catherine's friends said.

Catherine sat there with a loss of appetite for men to think this was okay and the worse because women had no idea this was normalized and none of them knew what to do.

"Catherine. Have you ever experienced any type of sexual harassment yourself?"

"I actually have."

Flashback (1995)

Step step. Catherine's steps were made as she went into the office to print out from papers for her tennis class.

"Rit rit rit." the printer made it as it printed the papers. Catherine picked up the papers to see if they were printed right. Proud to know she had done this and is getting the hang of her first job when she saw the sports director walked in.

"Oh hi!" he said when he walked in. "What are you doing?"

"Just printing out some papers for an assignment for the student," she replied smiling.

"Oh great! You've been doing a good job lately. The students are doing so good."

"Oh yea. They've made a lot of improvements. Can't wait for the next competition. They're going to play really well. I have lots of confidence in them."

"Me too. I mean they only learn from the best Catherine Rivera," he said.

Smiling, Catherine said, "Thank you! That was so sweet of you."

There was a slight silent when he started to walk towards Catherine and stood next to her taking up her space a little. Although Catherine was confused, she was busy making sure there were enough copies for her class. All of a sudden, he took his arm and put it around her. She was shocked. Her eyes open wide and her heart was beating twice as much as before and she felt paralyzed as he took his arm and place it right under her breast. Speechless, Catherine stood there with a racing mind wondering what to do. What is he doing? Why is he doing this? Does he know how inappropriate this is?

Flashback over

"Omg! That's absolutely horrible. I can't believe he would do something like that. So inappropriate. If my coworker did that to me, I would never look at him the same!" one of my friends said as the rest of them just looked absolutely uncomfortable with the thought of this.

“I never looked at him ever since. I was so confused on what to do. I never told anyone. But you guys should all be careful. It could happen at any time too.”

The faces of disgust and the loss of appetite on the food after hearing and explaining my story was horrible. Catherine just wishes she could come back and talk to her coworker and tell him that that was totally inappropriate what he did. Did he want that to happen to his mom or daughter? Why would he do that to her? He doesn't own her. What? Just because he's a man with higher power, is it okay to touch her like that?

“So, does anyone want to tell their story next?” Catherine says still thinking about what happened as a clueless adult dealing with what was so normalized before and shouldn't have.

Elizabeth Eakin's Story (1997)

"Hey Elizabeth!" Jennifer said, running up to Elizabeth in the school hallways.

"Hey! How's it going?" closing her locker to walk with Jennifer to class.

"Honestly, the club is going pretty horrible lately. This was the third time we had to switch rooms in the last two weeks," Jennifer said as they walked through the hallway together.

"What?"

"Yea, they would stand right outside of door and would yell so much we couldn't hear one another," Jennifer said as someone bumped into Jennifer making her drop her notebooks.

As Elizabeth looked at them, they were a clear male flipping a pen in brown hair and had a pretty trendy style. They gave her an evil smile and stomped onto her notebook. And said, "oops, sorry!" and continued to move their foot on the notebook making it more dirty and crumbled and looked away satisfied with their friends next to them laughing.

"Hey!" Jennifer said.

They turned around as Jennifer took the pen out of their hand, threw it on the floor and stepped on it. The pen broke in half and it was barely still usable. She picked it up and gave the pen back to them. "Oops, sorry!"

Elizabeth was shocked. She knew she could have never done something like that. She kneeled down to pick up Jennifer's notebooks when she saw a ripped poster for the feminine club. Although all five members in the club knew their posters were always ripped down like the other clubs, Elizabeth quickly picked it up before Jennifer could see it and stood up again to give Jennifer her notebook. She put the ripped up poster in her back pocket.

They smirked and Jennifer looked up at them with confidence, "You got a problem?" she asked

The tension rose as people looked at Jennifer up and down as if they wanted to kill her. Some of them ignored it and just walked away. Where were the staff? Why weren't they here to help her. But just as before anything terrible happened, *ringggg*.

"Bell may have saved you this time," they said

Shrugging it off, Jennifer took Elizabeth by the arm and walked away. She wasn't afraid. She really was perfect for the feminine club. But not her. Elizabeth would have been scared.

"They think they're so powerful," Jennifer said. Her face was burning hot as she held on to Elizabeth tightly.

"That was amazing!!!" Elizabeth said as she smiled proud.

"Thank you!!" Jennifer replied. "Power of the club. You should join. We would love to have you!"

I smiled looking down. "I'll think about it."

Knowing I wasn't comfortable, Jennifer patted her back, "Don't worry. You're a lot stronger then you think. And we're seniors! You'll never see these people again."

Before Elizabeth can answer, they have reached their class. "Let's go!" Elizabeth said.

As she sat on her desk, she reflected on the club. She didn't like the attention nor did she like to be bullied for being in the club. She didn't want to be in a position where she would have to switch classes constantly for her club. She didn't want so many people to be bullying her from outside the classroom so much to the point people couldn't walk through the crowd and

scream in the hallway with the help of no staff. She didn't want the pressure and would have been too embarrassed to go to school everyday. She wanted to be there and to help all the members but she couldn't for so many reasons. Maybe one day, she will regret it but right now, it just seemed like the best choice for her and what seemed right.

"I'm sorry Jenny," she thought as she looked over at Jennifer in class.

Lynn Nguyen's Story (2019)

"Zoommm," the car goes as Lynn parks her car into her garage.

"I looked in my rear view mirror and it seemed to make a lot more sense," she walked out of her car singing the song that was stuck in her head from the rehearsal she just came home from.

"Then what I see ahead of us, ahead of us, yeah. I'm ready to make that turn," she continued singing as she took out her garage door keys and opened up her door.

"Before we both crash and burn. Cause that could be the death of us, the death of us."

She locked her car and closed the door. She stayed in her shoe hallway as she took her shoes off and walked up the stairs to reach her kitchen.

"You know how to drive in rain."

There her mom was staring at her on the glass dining room table looking at her as she walked in her house. She sang a bit quieter turning left to walk towards her room to take a get some rest. *"And you decide to make-"*

"Lynn" her mom said cutting her off.

Lynn rolled her eyes. She knew what was about to go down again slowly turning around to face her mom.

"Where were you?" She continued when Lynn looked at her

"I was at acapella rehearsal," already getting annoyed by her mom thinking about how she told her this earlier.

"Until now?"

"Well, yea. There was traffic on my way back." She replied with a bit of attitude wanting to get back to her room already.

"Next time, try coming back earlier than that. It's really late right now. You shouldn't be out this late." her mom looked at her with a worried face.

Lynn looked at the clock, on top of the window next to her dining room table. As she looked, she saw it at 9:58. It's just almost 10. She looked back at her mom knowing what's about to happen

"You can't be out this late hanging out with guys like that. People will think you're easy," her mom said.

Easy? EASY? Lynn's face lit up. Did she just call her a slut? Lynn felt her face from her getting heated. Her clenching fists were dying not to move. The nerves she had to just walk away from her mom so she didn't get in trouble. If this wasn't her mom talking, they would have been done by now and she knew that.

"I was coming home from school. I didn't have much of a choice." Lynn said, raising her voice.

"You always-" her mom said.

"Mom, I wasn't out with any guys. It's not that hard to have some trust in your daughter, especially since the competition is soon and I need to practice." Lynn said. "Also, that's a really sexist view and my time coming home shouldn't be accounted for by all women and the statement of you staying out late doesn't determine who you are. If I were a guy coming home this late, it would not be the same thing and we know you wouldn't act the same way."

The talk back felt nice to Lynn but how could her mom say that. Before even letting her mom reply, she turned away and stomped to her room. She stormed into her room and close the door hard enough to show her mother that she was upset with what just happened but now enough to wake her dad up. She sits on her nicely made bed with white sheets getting on her laptop. She turned on her lamp standing on the nightstand next to her bed ready to tell her friend everything that just happened. Although she had just stood up to herself, she couldn't help but hold another grudge on her mom. Just because she's her mother shouldn't mean that she can have that type of control over her and think it's okay to say something like that to her daughter.

"How could she seriously think of me like that?" Lynn thought to herself.

Nina Garcia's Story (2015)

"TAG NO TAG BACKS!" someone shoved Nina a little before running off.

Looking around in the parking lot with nothing because cars, Nina ran around trying to find someone hiding behind a car to tag. "YOU GUYS CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE!"

She screams running around trying to find one of the boys to tag. They have just finished class in church and decided to come out of church to have some fun.

Breathing heavily, she ran toward Logan seeing his head popping out behind a silver car distracted trying to communicate with Trevor across the parking lot hiding behind their cars.

"STOMP STOMP STOMP," Nina ran closer and closer faster than the speed of lighting.

"OH GOD." Logan yelled as he ran off.

But it was too late when he found out. "TAG!" Nina said running off again.

Running again laughing, Logan ran after her. "NINA. CAN YOU NOT RUN SO FAST?"

As she continued laughing and running, they were disturbed. "NINA! GET OVER HERE!" Nina and the rest of the boys looked over to see her father walking towards her as he walked out of their church. Nina ran over to her dad, "Yea?" she said when she got to her dad.

"What are you doing?"

"Playing tag with my friends," she said worried. Her dad didn't look too happy.

"Look over there. Do you see any girls over there?"

Nina didn't even need to look, "No."

"Correct. I don't want you running around. You're a female. You shouldn't be running around. It doesn't make you feminine."

"What?" Nina said. Her heart just dropped. "What do you mean?"

"Go hang out with girls. You shouldn't be running around like these boys."

Nina was speechless. "Dad. All the girls here are like, 4. What am I going to do?" She wanted to burst. She started to tear up a bit. What does being a female have to do with running? How is she not allowed to run? It's not fair.

"It doesn't matter. Find something to do! You're not allowed to run around like boys!" her dad clapped back. Nina didn't want to yell back. She hated it when her father was upset. But what was she going to do? She wanted to go back. She turned around and saw all the boys running around chasing each other. All of a sudden, she heard a voice behind her, "What are you talking about?" She was a middle aged woman that worked at the church coming out for fresh air before seeing us.

"Nina is a female! She can't run around with these boys like that! It will make her look bad. She's the only girl out here too! That's embarrassing!" Nina's dad said looking at the woman because this lady has come into the conversation being nosy. His eyebrows were lowered and pulled closer together. His eyelids were squinted or raised. Their lips were tighten or curl inwards under his mustache. The corners of their mouth would point downwards.

Looking at me, the lady seeing my tears fall out of my eyes, she continued, "She's a 9 year old girl and just wanted to have some fun playing with some boys in a game of tag. Let her have fun. She's young! Now. Go on! Go back and play!" She looked at me smiling.

I looked at her. Her brown eyes and her bright white smile looking at me. She may have looked like a normal woman but that day. She was my unforgettable hero.

For some people in history, the European Enlightenment symbolized the beginning of new freedom, equality, independent thought, knowledge, and rights. However, for others it resulted in a new norm and legacy of discrimination, inequality, and difficulties and hardship. Historically, the former was only true for a very specific social group: wealthy, heterosexual, Christian white men. All people not in those categories, namely the poor, non-heterosexuals, non-Christians, people of color, and women were all discriminated against, to varying degrees. The historical narrative that was accepted was that the ideals of the Enlightenment established by a number of philosophers and intellectuals only applied to the very specific group of people described above and did not apply to anyone outside that group. That narrative was highly damaging to people outside the small group of those who actually benefited from the ideals of the Enlightenment, and to some extent those damaging effects still exist today due to the legacy of the historical narrative.

John Locke, a prominent philosopher during the time of the European Enlightenment, said the following: “All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty or possessions.” At first glance, this would appear quite straightforward. But, in fact, this ideal of equality and independence among “all mankind” has applied generally only to wealthy, heterosexual, Christian white men in history, and to some degree even today. All others were not extended this same courtesy of being allowed all the rights and ideals of the Enlightenment; in fact they were harmed, sabotaged, and discriminated against. Similarly to Locke, Immanuel Kant, another philosopher prominent during the Enlightenment, also promoted lofty philosophical ideals: “Always recognize that human individuals are ends, and do not use them as means to your end.” As with Locke’s statement, it seems this ideal was followed better among the group that truly benefited from the

Enlightenment than among those who were excluded. In other words, the elite group likely followed this ideal well enough in their own circle, but accounts prove that they did not treat other races and groups the same way. For example, the elite exploited Africans to further its own agenda under the guise of the White Man's Burden and used women (since the elite group included only men) as means to its own end. The list goes on with more statements that are contradicted by the conduct of the group of wealthy, heterosexual, Christian white men toward other groups.

What is a more accurate reflection of the true historical attitude toward the poor, non-heterosexuals, non-Christians, people of color, and women is the collection of writings and statements, from the same philosophers and intellectuals, that clearly state the discriminating attitudes toward those groups and that apparently contradict the ideas above about equality, freedom, knowledge, independence, and rights. For example, John Locke stated: "I may grow rich by an Art that I take not delight in; I may be cured of some Disease by Remedies that I have not Faith in; but I cannot be saved by a Religion that I distrust, and by a Worship that I abhor." This statement by Locke seems to directly contradict his other statement about equality and independence for all mankind and about the absence of the need for anyone to harm another. That, in turn, suggests that although Locke wrote about "all mankind," the historically accepted narrative has been that "all mankind" includes only Christian men, and that all non-Christians are not included in the positive ideals of the Enlightenment. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, another Enlightenment philosopher, said the following about women: "The women's entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women's duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood." This clearly implies that women do

not possess equality, freedom, independence, and rights, and it clearly says that women are only “means to be used as ends” for men, contradicting Rousseau’s statement. Once again, the list goes on, with many more quotes that reinforce a discriminatory attitude against minority and/or non-privileged social groups.

As a result of this historical narrative, there have been a number of very damaging effects on the poor, non-heterosexuals, non-Christians, people of color, and women. For example, there were very negative stereotypes of Africans and Arab peoples created by the Europeans as a result of the idea that the ideals of the Enlightenment did not apply to those peoples: Non-Europeans were depicted as barbaric, uncivilized, primitive, and dirty. The idea of the White Man’s Burden, widely depicted in Europe, promoted the idea that whites needed to “help” non-whites, but this was actually a cover for the Europeans to exploit and use other races to further their own agenda. As another example, there have also been a number of damaging effects on the poor, specifically with regard to colonial policy for addressing the issue of poverty in Europe and America; Europeans and Americans, especially political conservatives, blamed the poor for being poor, and they believed that poverty was a hereditary trait that was fixed in a poor person. In more extreme cases, conservatives also promoted harsh treatment of the poor which harmed the poor more than it helped them, including segregation, institutionalization, and sterilization to prevent “unfit” people from producing “unfit” children, to prevent more poverty from emerging on the streets and to prevent the poor from further tainting society with their poverty. There are many more examples of such discrimination in history.

From all of these historical occurrences, the system of privilege established, which has held up until today, albeit weakened with time and the efforts of multiple “disruptors” to the norm, has been that wealthy, heterosexual, Christian white men have the most power and can get

it more easily than any other group. They have had the greatest amount of opportunity to gain political, social, and economic power and have traditionally held the vast majority of that power. On the other hand, all people outside that group, including those lower on the socioeconomic ladder, non-heterosexuals, non-Christians, non-whites, and women have historically held a small amount of political, social, and economic power and had a far less easy time obtaining it. For example, the people of these less privileged groups have historically been elected to many less political offices than their more privileged counterparts. Also, it has historically been far less easy for women and people of color to succeed in business, become financially successful, and escape poverty.

The system of privilege that currently exists has been in place for centuries, and although it has begun to be dismantled, it will take much more work to fully deconstruct. There will need to come more people who disregard the norm and achieve high success despite not being a part of the historical elite group. In addition to massive effort, it will also take more time to progress a large amount in this area; this is likely not something that will be achieved in decades, or even a single century. Nevertheless, with both effort and time, this historical system and narrative will eventually be removed entirely, and the original ideals of the Enlightenment may then finally apply to all people.

Historically, power in society has gone for the most part to a very specific group of people: wealthy, heterosexual, Christian white men. However, people outside this group, including the poor, the non-heterosexual and non-Christian, people of color, and women of all races have had a much more difficult time advancing in politics, social standing, and business and personal wealth. This narrative has been firmly planted in society for centuries, and it arguably started

back in the time of the European Enlightenment. During the Enlightenment, many positive philosophical ideals for people were established regarding liberty, knowledge, freedom of thought, independence, equality, and rights. There would be no problem with those ideals, but the issue throughout history has been that liberty, knowledge, freedom of thought, independence, equality, and rights only apply to the privileged group mentioned above to whom almost all political, social, and economic power has gone throughout the centuries. Conversely, the historical narrative was that the same ideals did not apply to all other groups of people. In fact, not only did the ideals not apply to the other people, those excluded groups were thoroughly and widely discriminated against, sabotaged, and prevented from gaining power.

One minority category that has historically been discriminated against and excluded from the ideals of the Enlightenment is the Asian group. Asians, like many other minorities in the U.S., have historically been marginalized and discriminated against, and most recently they have been the targets of physical violence in a recent hate surge against Asian Americans. The Chinese, specifically, in history were also unfairly treated by the Europeans, who stereotyped China as evil, corrupt, and filled with various diseases and the Chinese people as inherently vulnerable to disease. Being of Chinese ancestry myself, I have decided to investigate one counternarrative in the form of my family's achievements. As long as Asians have lived in the United States, it has been difficult for them to succeed financially, in business and in their careers because of the original narrative of discrimination that existed during the Enlightenment. However, many Asians have managed to succeed financially and at business and escape poverty. My family is one such example. When my grandparents first came to the United States from China, they were quite poor and barely able to support themselves and their two children, one of whom was my father. They came to the United States and left their country and their home with

their children because they thought there was a better future here for their children and themselves. “We believed America was stronger and more powerful than China, and we came to America because of the freedom promised here. We came here so our children could get quality education, and so we could make more money,” my grandmother stated. She went on, “And it looks like we made a good decision. There was a better life here. And now, here we are, fifty years later.” My grandparents subsequently had to work hard and surmount the historical narrative which made it difficult for them to succeed at making money. Both of my paternal grandparents opened restaurants, and both of their restaurants became quite successful. Because my grandparents achieved this financial success, my family is very financially secure and not poor today. Their success also enabled both of their children to have successful careers and to make money. In turn, I have been raised in a financially stable family and have not had to endure the hardships that my grandparents’ children had to endure because of their then-limited money, and I will have the highest chance thus far of achieving success in my life because of the resources at my disposal.

I have interviewed my father and my paternal grandmother on the success this family has managed to achieve. Here is what I have learned from that process.

(Please note that I conducted my interview with my grandmother in Chinese, since she speaks limited English, and that I have translated the interview into English, so all the quotes I have used below are my translations of what my grandmother stated.)

My paternal grandmother came to the U.S. with my grandfather in 1970 with their two children in tow. Because they were poor, they had to quickly figure out how to make money in order to survive and not become homeless. Because they were immigrants, they were very limited in what work they were able to do. That is one barrier they had to overcome and a way in

which they experienced discrimination as members of a minority racial group. “When we came here, it was difficult to find work because we were immigrants and we lacked the kinds of education that were needed to work in most jobs. Really, the only way we could make money was to each open up a restaurant,” my grandmother said.

During that time, even immigrants who had special skills and good educations had trouble finding jobs in the U.S. For example, when my grandfather came to the United States, he studied hard and received a master’s degree in teaching English, but after he received that degree he found out that he still could barely make any money by teaching. He found a job teaching English at a school in Missouri, but because he was a Chinese man teaching English to white children, he experienced severe discrimination, in addition to the fact that he made very little money teaching. Therefore, that was not a suitable job. Due to this unanticipated obstacle, my grandfather had to adapt and change his plans entirely. In the end, he was forced to find work by opening a restaurant like my grandmother did despite having received a good education.

My grandparents were able to open restaurants because they had saved money and because my grandfather had worked previously for some time as a busboy in a steakhouse. In fact, at that time, while my grandmother and my father and his brother were located in Virginia, my grandfather spent much of his time in Chicago. In a funny way, events have now gone full-circle since although I have lived most of my life in California, my parents and I have now moved to Chicago. As a busboy, my grandfather would collect small tips, and he would walk three miles to get home every day. He would collect leftover food and steak from customers’ plates instead of discarding it, and he would take those leftovers home and eat them for dinner. My grandparents were also able to open their own restaurants because they each worked with friends to do so. After my grandfather had left this job where he worked as a busboy, he worked

together with some of his friends and opened a Chinese restaurant. Some time after, my grandparent collected some of her friends and opened a Chinese restaurant of her own. Also, getting bank loans was in fact not even an option for my grandparents due to discrimination; when they first arrived in the country, despite searching for days and weeks, they could not even find an apartment to rent, and when they did they were required to have someone cosign it with them, likely because of their race.

Because of their poverty, my grandparents had to surmount the historical narrative somehow in order to make money. They had to break the pattern of discrimination to survive. When I asked my grandmother what caused my grandfather and her to break the mold, she said, “When we were working, we weren’t focused on discrimination against us from other people and the system. We just knew we had to survive and to support our children, and that is why we succeeded.”

When I asked my grandmother if she thought she achieved what she meant to, she stated, “Based on my life now and the standard of living we have now, I would say we succeeded. We live very comfortably, and we have more than enough money to get by. I seem to have raised my children well, and you have everything you need, so I guess I did everything I meant to do.”

Indeed, it would seem as if my grandmother did everything she needed to do despite all the racial barriers she had to overcome, especially considering that she successfully raised two children and that I now have the financial resources I need to succeed in my life.

When I interviewed my father, he also gave much credit to his parents for raising my uncle and him. He praised my grandparents for the work they did opening successful restaurants and making enough money to support all four members of their family. He also mentioned that a large part of how my grandparents managed to become financially secure was that they saved

their money very well; even though both of their restaurants were successful, they still did not make very much money doing that work, so they were very prudent by saving.

Both my father and my uncle did very well for themselves as adults. Both went through medical school and became doctors, and in this way both my father and my uncle achieved the “American Dream.” That is a testament to the hard work of my grandparents for supporting two children. It is also a testament to the hard work and persistence of my father and uncle themselves. Like my grandparents, they also had to work through discrimination and difficulties during their grade school, college, and medical school careers, since most of their classmates were of European descent, the group that originally created the historical narrative of rights for white people and the exclusion of non-whites during the Enlightenment.

On the barriers that existed for my uncle and him because of their race, my father stated that he had to work harder to succeed in grade school, college, and medical school because there was always a sense that white people were favored over other groups. My father elaborated, “We had to work harder than white students because it was easier for them to get good grades than it was for us.” He went on to say, “Also, teachers and professors often favored white students over us, and there was a sense that we had to work harder to get our instructors to like us.” Essentially, there was, and still is today to some degree, the barrier that it was easier for white students to succeed in school because they were favored over Asians.” Even in 1970s and 80s, when my father and uncle grew up, discrimination against minorities was still common in the U.S., and whites still received the greatest privileges and opportunity.

I asked my father what caused him to go against the historical narrative and succeed, and to break the mold. He responded that it was partially a result of the environment he grew up in: Unlike me, he did not grow up in a very comfortable environment; because for most of his

childhood my grandparents were still poor, he lived a much harder life than me. He had to work from a young age to support the family, and he and my uncle often barely had enough food to eat. This harsh environment gave him more motivation, and he felt he needed to succeed in order to escape this harshness and to live a better life. Also, he often felt pressure to succeed because he thought if he didn't succeed, he would be failing his family. "When you grow up poor, and when you have the pressure of feeling you need to succeed, because otherwise you would be failing your parents because they've sacrificed so much for you, it's difficult to not work hard," my father said. He also noted that children from immigrant families often feel that they have to work harder than do children from non-immigrant families, since immigrant families have it so much more difficult. Ultimately, that is true because of the lasting legacy of unfairness from the Enlightenment.

Finally, moving forward another generation, I have had a much more comfortable childhood than my father and my uncle both because of their work and the efforts of my grandparents, and I will have more resources at my disposal than my father and uncle did to help me succeed. Ultimately, despite the legacy of the exclusion of non-whites, non-heterosexuals, non-Christians, people of color, and women from the positive ideals of the European Enlightenment, my family has succeeded in securing itself financially and providing opportunities for its children who are of the current generation, including my cousins (my uncle's children) and me, due to the work my grandparents and their children have done to surmount the obstacles the historical narrative presented. Furthermore, this family is only one of many minority families that have succeeded financially and otherwise. With more time and effort, and the appearances of more counternarratives and disruptors to the tradition, families and people from non-privileged groups will have even greater chances of achieving success in the future.

Enlightenment Legacy Project

While the Enlightenment helped us expand our thought processes and brought around plenty of good ideas, it also left a bad legacy for those who didn't fit the narrative. This included women, blacks, homosexuals, and many other marginalized groups at the time.

For my enlightenment project, I decided to focus on telling my tio's and I's story. While my uncle is no longer with us, I can recall countless lessons he's taught and passed down to me. I feel the quote "Native Americans and Negroes can't govern themselves... Thus they serve only as slaves." "The virtue of a woman is a beautiful virtue... That of the male sex ought to be a noble virtue. Women will avoid evil not because it is unjust, but because it is ugly." And: "They [women] do something only because they love to, and the art lies in making sure that they love only what is good. I hardly believe that the fair sex is capable of principles." "The Hindus ... have a strong degree of calm, and all look like philosophers. That notwithstanding, they are much inclined to anger and love. They thus are educable in the highest degree, but only to the arts and not to the sciences. They will never achieve abstract concepts." would have resonated the most with my tio and I, and I would consider us both as disruptors. My tio would always tell me "to never let another assess your value", when he said that he really meant to never let another man tell you you are lesser, to never allow someone to tell you what you are capable of. My generation seems to be convinced that their race defines them, that they are victims of "systematic racism" and oppression, when in reality what's truly holding them back is themselves. While my tio was around he was an active disruptor, teaching me that there are no odds I can't overcome, instilling in me

perseverance, and confidence, traits most of my generation lacks. His dream, just like mine, was to become a politician one day. My tio acknowledged that he was inherently disadvantaged due to societal norms, however he, nor I, let any of that get to us. My tio never actually became a politician, but he passed down his ambition and perseverance to me. Throughout this entire lesson every single one of these quotes reminded me deeply of everything he taught me while I was young. In my mind while reading these quotes I could only think about how much of everything he's said applies to all of them. Before I get into what my tio actually taught me, I feel it's important to say that I analyzed how my peers reacted to these quotes, and I noticed that my peers took these quotes and used them as a reason to explain why things are the way they are. Which they definitely are, however I see them completely differently. Instead, I saw these quotes and laughed, I laughed at how ignorant and stupid they sounded to me, more importantly, I saw it as an opportunity for change. My tio always told me to never harp on what was said, but rather focus on what can be said, so rather than harping on the past we should be focusing on the future. It's easy to draw lines and to point out cause and effect but it's a lot harder to not only do something about it, but to want to do something about it. The first half of the quote from earlier, ("Native Americans and Negroes can't govern themselves...") talks about how Natives and people of color couldn't govern themselves, which obviously made white people at the time feel superior and what not, but what about the impact on us? What about the impact this quote had on people of color at the time and its legacy now? We never ask these questions. Personally these dehumanizing quotes are empowering to me, they make me eager to prove this 200 year old quote wrong only to rub it in its face. These quotes

don't enrage me, but rather make me feel superior, as anyone to suggest that any single one of these quotes is even remotely true must be some sort of stupid.

You're probably wondering what any of this has to do with being a disrupter or disrupting any. My answer is my mindset. My mindset disrupts the common narrative that we are "offended" or "oppressed" as latinos, blacks or other people of color. As a latino boy growing up in chicago I've witnessed and experienced what many call "oppression" and "discrimination" and never once felt oppressed, or disadvantaged in any way. I've been told that my sole purpose in life was to be another wet back mowing lawns for a living, and I could only laugh at the blatant stupidity. Not once have any of those comments ever brought me down, rather they again encouraged me, and empowered me to achieve whatever I want to. My tio passed down this attitude to me. He would constantly say "you're only oppressed if you tell yourself you are" which to me, couldn't be further from the truth. My attitude is disruptive because not many others in my generation share it. I owe it all to my tio, the true disruptor, the man who instilled in me the tools to break free from the chains of insecurity and victimization that plagues my generation. I refuse to see myself as a victim of oppression, systematic racism, or anything else of that matter all due to the simple fact that with my mindset, I am impossible to oppress. "It is impossible to bring down a man who has no regards as to how you see him" says mi tio, teaching me that it will forever be impossible to bring me down if I have no regards for the odds stacked against me, because like I said earlier, my tio provided me with the mindset and tools I need to overcome any and all odds.

So not only is my tio a great disruptor for disrupting the idea that I, as a latino, am at a disadvantage because of my race, but also preparing me for obstacles I may

face because of my race and for teaching me to not allow myself to be marginalized as a victim nor use my race as a scapegoat for anything that may happen to me, but rather, as a fighter. With this knowledge I am sure I too will be a disruptor, following in my tios footsteps, teaching my children to be strong, to never play the victim just because society tells them to, and to never see their race as anything else than something to be proud of.

I didn't pull this essay completely from memory, I asked my other tio's and tia's about what they thought and they couldn't have agreed more. Thanks to my tio, I have a truly unbreakable character, and an impenetrable mind. My tio Instilled in me something my generation needed most, something that can't exactly be described in words, but something that it is now my responsibility to pass down to my children. Because of my tio, nothing can hold me back when it comes to things like racism and oppression. More importantly, because of my tio, I am no longer held back or discouraged by things society tells me to be, something I wish my generation had in common. I need no one to fight or advocate for me as I fight and advocate for myself. My tio was a disruptor, achieving things people thought he never could because of his race. I too am a disruptor, as I will teach my children to do the same.