
Day 18 Packet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Do Now

Imagine you could do anything you want over the four-day weekend. Describe your perfect long weekend--what would you do? Who would you be with? Where would you go?
Bonus points if you can use any of our vocabulary words we've learned so far!

Precarious
Futile
Incessant
Furnish
Desert
Gregarious
Succumb
Malignant
Vapid
Disingenuous

Disparity
Ambivalence
Onerous
Legislate
Unequivocal
Compromise
Agriculture
Amend
Abolish
Secede


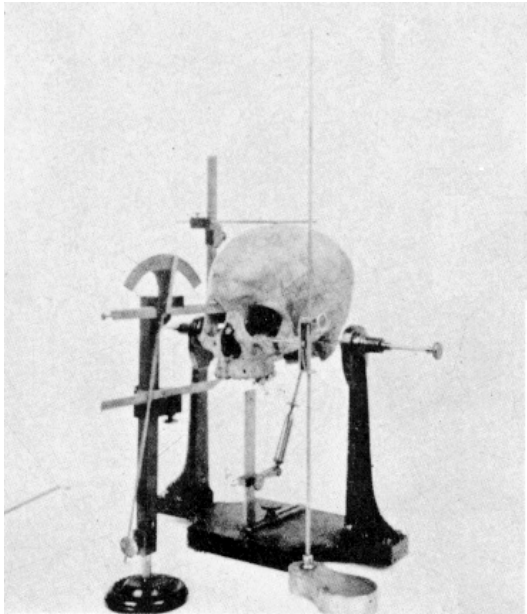
Chewing Gum

After watching the video, explain how people thought of the twin who chewed gum. Why do you think that is?

How might this video relate to the racist thinking we have been learning about in class? Hint: think about how easy it is to make assumptions about others...

Modern Scientific Racism Inquiry

Document #1: Past and Present

Paragraph (Remember--underline major topics and arguments)	Your 1 Sentence Summary What is the paragraph's main idea?
<p>The excruciatingly painful medical experiments went on until his body was disfigured by a network of scars. John Brown, an enslaved man on a Baldwin County, Ga., plantation in the 1820s and '30s, was lent to a physician, Dr. Thomas Hamilton, who was obsessed with proving that physiological [<i>biological, physical</i>] differences between black and white people existed. Hamilton used Brown to try to determine how deep black skin went, believing it was thicker than white skin. Hamilton tortured Brown for 9 months until Brown escaped and published an autobiography about his experiences.</p>	
 <p>John Brown, 1855</p>	 <p>Skull being measured in 1902. Pseudo-scientists attempted to use skull measurements to identify differences between races and even claimed to predict if someone was a criminal.</p>
<p>Throughout his career as a Southern doctor in the 1800s, Dr. Hamilton was respected in the medical field. And like many other doctors during the era of slavery, he was also a wealthy plantation owner who tried to use science to prove that differences between black people and white people went beyond culture and were more than skin deep. He insisted that black bodies were composed and functioned differently than white bodies.</p>	

<p>He believed that black people had small skulls — which translated [<i>led</i>] to a lack of intelligence — and higher tolerance for heat. A commonly held medical myth was that black people didn't feel pain and were immune to some illnesses. These unproven fallacies [<i>false beliefs</i>] were presented as facts in medical journals. They bolstered [<i>supported</i>] society's view that enslaved people were fit for little besides forced labor and provided support for racist ideology [<i>beliefs</i>] and discriminatory public policies [<i>laws</i>].</p>	
<p>Over the centuries, the two most persistent [<i>lasting</i>] racist biological myths — that black people were impervious [<i>immune</i>] to pain and had weak lungs that could be strengthened through forced work — wormed their way into scientific consensus [<i>agreement</i>], and they remain rooted in modern-day medical education and practice. Thomas Jefferson, in “Notes on the State of Virginia,” listed what he proposed were “the real distinctions which nature has made,” including a lack of lung capacity.</p>	
<p>In the years that followed, physicians and scientists embraced Jefferson's unproven theories, none more aggressively than physician and professor Samuel Cartwright. He published a popular paper in May 1851 that cataloged supposed physical differences between whites and blacks, including the claim that black people had lower lung capacity. Cartwright, conveniently, saw forced labor as a way to “vitalize” [<i>give energy to</i>] the blood and correct the problem. Most outrageous, Cartwright maintained that enslaved people were prone to a “disease of the mind” called drapetomania, which caused them to run away from their enslavers. Willfully ignoring the inhumane conditions that drove desperate men and women to attempt escape, he insisted that enslaved people contracted this ailment when their enslavers treated them as equals, and he prescribed “whipping the devil out of them” as a preventive measure.</p>	
<p>More than 150 years after the end of slavery, fallacies [<i>mistaken beliefs</i>] of black immunity to pain and weakened lung function continue to show up today. Recent data shows that present-day doctors fail to sufficiently treat the pain of black adults and children for many medical issues. A 2013 review of studies examining racial disparities in pain management published in The American Medical Association Journal of Ethics found that black and Hispanic people — from children to the elderly — received inadequate pain management compared with white counterparts.</p>	
<p>A 2016 survey of 222 white medical students published in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showed that half of them endorsed [<i>supported</i>] at least one myth about biological differences between black people and white people, including that black people's nerve endings are less sensitive than white people's. When asked to imagine how much pain white or black patients experienced in hypothetical situations, the medical students insisted</p>	

that black people felt less pain and were less likely to recommend appropriate treatment. A third of these doctors to be also still believed the lie that Thomas Hamilton tortured John Brown to prove nearly two centuries ago: that black skin is thicker than white skin.

In what ways do the racist beliefs and attitudes of the 19th century persist in the medical system today?

Source: Villarosa, Linda. "Medical Inequality" *New York Times*, 2019.

Document #2: Haunted by Slavery (Watch only from Beginning to 5:38)

[Youtube Link](#)

<p>What do modern studies reveal about how African Americans are treated and perceived in the healthcare system? (Hint: 1:47 and 4:25)</p>	<p>Why might African Americans, particularly women, be distrustful of the American medical system?</p>
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Source: “The US medical system is still haunted by slavery” *Vox* 7 Dec 2017. Youtube.

Document #3: Tuskegee (Watching from Beginning to 3:35, then 9:17 to the end)

[Youtube Link](#)

<p>What is Scott Muhammed’s argument for not getting the covid vaccine?</p>	<p>What is Theilene Dawson-Williams’s argument for getting the covid vaccine? (woman at the end whose grandfather was in the Tuskegee syphilis study)</p>
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Source: “Beyond Tuskegee: Black Distrust In The Vaccine And Healthcare System Runs Deep” *NBC News* 3 Feb 2021. Youtube.

Document #4 (Extension): Racist Hospital Algorithm

<p>Paragraph (Remember--underline major topics and arguments)</p>	<p>Your 1 Sentence Summary What is the paragraph's main idea?</p>
<p>UnitedHealth Group used technology that may have kept sick black patients from receiving high-quality care. The algorithm in question, Impact Pro, identifies which patients would benefit from complex health procedures favored treating white patients than sicker black ones between 2013 and 2015, according to a study published in the prestigious journal <i>Science</i>.</p>	
<p>The algorithm predicted black patients would cost less, which signaled to medical providers that their illnesses must not be that bad. But, in reality, black patients cost less because they don't purchase healthcare services as much as white people on average. The study stated black patients don't seek out healthcare due to a lack of access and a general mistrust in the system. Facing more barriers to accessing healthcare, in turn, indirectly drives down the projected "cost" of illness in black patients.</p>	
<p>Health systems use this algorithm on 200 million people each year across the US, the report states. If the algorithm were to eliminate the racial bias, black patients who receive additional help would increase from 17.7% to 46.5%, it predicts. Optum, UnitedHealth's multi-billion dollar business that used Impact Pro, previously touted [<i>promoted</i>] its use of artificial intelligence (AI) to provide better care.</p>	
<p>AI and algorithms are on the rise in the health industry. Business Insider Intelligence predicts that spending on healthcare AI is projected to grow 48% between 2017 and 2023. Yet experts and researchers have long called out the bias algorithms can perpetuate. Amazon built a hiring tool that discriminated against women. Tweets from black people were more likely to be dubbed "toxic" in a Google-funded AI tool. Facial recognition tools used by the US government have been shown to misidentify black people much more often than white people.</p>	

Source: Ahktar, Allana. "New York is investigating UnitedHealth's use of a medical algorithm that steered black patients away from getting higher-quality care" *Business Insider*, 28 Oct 2019. [Link](#).

Debrief and Reflection

After investigating all of the sources about historical and modern-day scientific racism, what reactions, thoughts, or feelings do you have?

How do you feel about science? About medicine?

Given our history of scientific racism, what responsibility do we have as students of science and medicine?