

## Notes on Systemic Issue Articles

Name: [REDACTED]

### 1. Why are you curious about this systemic issue?

Its very disheartening - Its so sad because the system is supposed to work this way. So technically, nothing is inherently wrong with the system. This is why change doesnt really come because the people who set up the system centuries ago set it up to be like this. Also it is very interesting to compare race and outcomes of discrimination that minorites face. Also there is no one to hold accountable and to hold enough power to stop it. That's why systemic issues are so difficult to tackle.

### 2. Looking at the areas of your own life that we discussed in class on the first day of the unit (Career/Finances; Education; Physical/Health; Family/Social; Spiritual/Values), how does this systemic issue relate to you directly or to someone you know?

I'm a firm believer that sometimes your environment affects your education. Hence the figure of speech, "Living under a rock". I think about the place I go to school. While it is a top school, it's located in [REDACTED]. Homeless people on every corner, it's dirty, underfunded and impoverished. Not only does this scare parents and students away, it also puts a stigma on our school, inherently affecting our education. The amount of violence that it is in is absurd. But no one is being held accountable. How can we learn if we are worried about someone shooting up our school? But if we think about [REDACTED], they are located on the [REDACTED] - beautiful campus and neighborhood. This is why they score high - they don't have to worry about that as much. Also, it's predominantly white people. The difference is very apparent which is so sad but so true. Whites get the longer part of the stick while minorities get the remnants. And this is how life has been for centuries - and the system is working as intended. These people have no intention of changing it either.

### 3. What did you already know about the issue and what new information did you learn about it?

I already knew that racism and poverty exists. I learned that when I told people that I lived in [REDACTED] and they automatically associated me with money. All of those people were black. If I was an old white person and I lived in [REDACTED], they wouldn't give it a second thought. And while people love to dismiss the issue, it can't be anymore. I learned that it is working as intended. Because everyone thinks if we tackle this one person like Donald Trump or Elon Musk, we'll never face racism again. But thats so far from the truth. These people grew up with those ideologies, so did their parents, and their parent's parents. it 's not just one person - it is an idea that has become global. And they affect every kind of people. Even with college admissions - some people are tempted to lie and say they're white just to get into the college they want to get into. That's why I am thankful for HBCUs. But, that brings up another issue

about the lack of funding HBCUs have. Think about Spelman vs. Stanford. One is glorified more because of it's status. But shouldn't all kids have the same level of acceptance for education. All these kids are trying to do is get a good education to be successful. No one is paying thousands of dollars to get mediocre education and housing. Also, scholarships. Although more African- American based scholarships are on the rise, what about the people who are already out of college and now in debt? But, as mentioned, the system is working as intended.

#### **4. How do you feel systemic issues affect expectations and success?**

I think these people are highly aware that knowledge is power. If they can withhold scholarships and resources for minorities to not access knowledge, they will do it by any means necessary. They know if college was expensive enough, they wouldn't even bother going to college - they won't get a job and they'll live on the streets. Rewarding scholarships and adequate education to whites will continue the cycle of white supremacy. They'll go and get good jobs and be successful - leaving minorities for the remnants.

#### **OTHER NOTES:**

Another good article

<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/homelessness-and-black-history-poverty-and-income/>