

Performance Task Prompt: Write a poem or song in response to a local/national story of injustice. (Students may also respond using another art form)

Student Product 1: Poem

Untitled (by Enoch)

A knee on the head, that's what George Floyd felt
And that day one of the biggest blows to society was dealt
Riots and protests all around
And with this poem I'll make my sound
Pride, something I can't hide
But with all these killings it's something I want to keep inside
How do you think he felt
Calling for his mom like a kid who can't reach the top of the shelf
Left and right, up and down
Protesters here and all over town
Justice will be served, and we will be heard
When we band together there's no need to be scurred
It went from whips to guns
Fathers to sons
From generation to generations
Blacks can't have their fun
Enough is enough and I may not be a sage
But it doesn't take a genius to know we need change
Proud is what I am today
And fear won't hold me back, no way
I'm gonna stand up for what is right
Until racism is out of sight
George, I'm sorry for what you went through
But now we are about to stage a coup
Justice will be served
And one day racism will be an ancient word

Student Product 2: Poem

“Walked broken to Joy” (by Angel)

My skin has brought me injustice and fear
My skin has brought me sadness and poverty
My skin has brought me hate and misfortune
It has brought me everything but the riches of life

I voice my concerns to those whose skin shines brighter than mine
“You’re fine, you’re different from your kind”
my kind?
Kind as in species?
Do I belong to a different species than human?
What makes me different?
Do I not fit your stereotype, sorry
“My species” is not criminals, or “ratchet” or “ghetto” or “loud and aggressive” or “suspicious” or
“illegal” or “forbidden fruit”

Still “my species” tears through the jungle of discrimination and struggle
To get to our well deserved and promised prize of true joy and promise
Even though sacrifices are made, they will not be in vain
We will hold those gone in our arms compassionately,
carrying them to the finish line with us

One choked
One while sleeping
One in their own home in front of a child
One holding a phone
One while eating ice cream
Those separated from families by a border
Pushed off your land into small deserted areas
And some many more

Yet if one of them had a brighter appearance
a simple warning would have been issued
a simple thing but it would have saved so many lives
The difference between a color tone
is as childish as ever
The ones who wear badges,
the ones who swear to protect us,
Are the ones who kill us

However even though "my species" is tearing through that jungle
We shall always smile through our tears of pain
Never falling in front of our oppressors
Never giving the satisfaction of defeat to them
Always joyful even through the struggle
We have
We must
We shall continue to
Fight the walk

Student Product 3: Song Lyrics

Untitled (by Rashaan)

See people struggling
See people hustling
See people out in the streets it is troubling.
People lost their job to covid they broke
Its been 8 months we are starting to choke.
They still unemployed cant feed they people,
Cant stay in their homes dont know if they gone keep 'em. Economy of the U.S be needing our help,
But people dont see this I can't help but bail.
Our stock markets troubled and we are perplexed
This deadly virus is worse than the rest.
People havin problems just paying they bills,
I wish 2020 would drive off a hill.
College, retirement and savings, too
People had to resort to these to buy some food
We followed the rules and we followed the people
But some people thought that they want to be evil
Numbers were flying and so were their souls
R.I.P to the people who thought they was bold
They told us to wear masks but yall did not listen
Now you stuck eatin inside of Gods kitchen
Im sick of 2020 and this corona virus crap,
I wish it would end so I can go take a nap

Student Product 4: Poem

Ahmaud Arbery was trying to get some exercise by jogging in Georgia.
His family didn't realize there was about to be a great horror.
Three shots were fired, two the chest.
This will start a protest.

Why did the arrest take so long?
Gregory McMichael and his son, Travis, were clearly wrong.
Two local district attorneys recused themselves, which delayed the arrest.
When will Ahmaud finally be able to rest?
Police arrested William Bryan, who filmed the video and tried to block Mr Arbery's path.
This was one of the causes of the bloodbath.

This isn't the first time something like this happened.
Trayvon Martin was killed for visiting his father, something could never imagine.
Breonna Taylor was not expecting someone to come into her apartment.
And end up being killed by the police department.
Injustice isn't a new thing for people not doing anything wrong.
How are we supposed to stay strong?
We lost our hope.
And we are still trying to cope.

When will this racism cycle end.
How is the community supposed to mend?
People need to change their gaze towards minorities.
Especially the authorities.
Changing their gaze, will change their perspective of truth and justice.

Which will end the numbness.

Student Product 5: Poem

Untitled

When a black man is segregated, he loses sight of what is right,
And ends up trying to change or fight,
But nowadays, this doesn't come true,
But back in the day, everyone knew,
That equal right, meant equal fights.

So back then, some fought for and against slaves rights,
But the only people who could fight were the lights, (white people)
So one day, it was decided to let the colored fight for their own,
And this is what lead to the civil warzone,
Where the community fought for colored peoples rights,
And they won, that day, there were fireworks, along with some kites.