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American Studies

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American Values

One of the major American values is equality, but is America still living up to this value or have Americans forgotten about its importance? The value of equality has been one of the leading ideals since the French Revolution. The value was put into the Declaration of Independence as well. This has been one of the most controversial values of America since people have many different views on it. Over time in history people have fought for equality of gender, sexuality, race, and many more things. Today there has been a big loss of racial equality. America is currently not living up to its values because as you can see with what has been going on with racial inequality and the protests, nothing in America seems to be equal.

America is not living up to its standards on how everyone in this country should be treated as an equal because as the Declaration of Independence says "We are all created equal," but in many cases Latinos are not treated like everyone else. Latinos in America get treated as "lower" than non-Hispanic whites. For example, 23% of Hispanics lived in poverty whereas only 8% of white people lived in poverty. Hispanics are also most likely to work in construction, domestic and food services, and other low wage jobs compared to the average white male in professional, technical, sales or administrative support positions. In 2004, 36% of hispanics under the age of 65 lacked health insurance as compared with 15% of white people. This article states "Historically, lack of health insurance coverage has been a major problem for Hispanics,

who are substantially more likely to be uninsured than non-Hispanic whites”. You can see the pattern going on with a higher percentage of Hispanics lacking in high paying jobs or for medical needs. This quote shows how it is proven with data that white people have more advantages in America than the average Hispanic does. This does not have to do with how hard they work but of the color of their skin and the extra benefit it gives them in life compared to people of color. The lack of racial equality is not only towards Hispanics, but towards all other races as well.

A big topic in The United States right now is the Black Lives Matter movement, this movement fights for the equality of the black community. Black people have always been treated unequal and have not received as much respect as white people do. They are constantly fighting for their right of equality in the world and finally after what happened with George Floyd, their voices began to be heard through protests. As a member of the black community our previous First Lady of the United states, Michelle Obama, spoke on her opinions of the Black Lives Matter Movement. “It’s up to all of us – Black, white, everyone – no matter how well-meaning we think we might be, to do the honest, uncomfortable work of rooting it out.” In order for Black people to be treated equally, people of all races need to stand up and help defend their rights of citizens of the United States. This quote demonstrates that all people must work together to achieve the goal of equality for black people. There has always been a constant fight for equality for the black community, but this year the need for it is greater than it ever has been. People of color get treated so much differently than white people and during this time everyone is coming together to change that and make everyone equal, like it should be. The black community has always been treated differently because of their color of skin, but over this past year it has gotten

out of hand how unfairly they are treated. Hopefully through protests and other ways of getting their voices heard the black community will finally get their right of equality that they deserve.

Overall, America has had a loss of the value of equality, the loss of it is currently being shown through all the racial inequality that has been happening over the past couple of months. This value of equality is very important in America because everyone deserves to be treated equally no matter what their race is. I believe that it is wrong people think that just because someone is not white, they should not have the same rights as white people do. It is important that all people are aware of the racial inequality problem that we have in America and find ways that they can help resolve this problem. Not a single person should have to feel segregated just because of their color of skin. They should feel welcomed into any place they go, since that is a right that they have living in America. I think that all people that believe and respect the value of equality of races should do as much as they can to support and fight for the inequality to end. Maybe at some point everyone will realize how important the value of equality truly is to America.



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