

American Studies

U.S. History

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America's Battle for Equality

The United States of America is viewed as a nation of equality. It is true that America is very diverse, however, many groups of people are treated differently and unfairly. The Declaration of Independence, signed in 1776, and the Constitution state that all men are created equal and they promise equal protection of rights to every American citizen. However, throughout history equality has been challenged by issues such as racism and sexism. For decades people have protested against them but they are still evident today, for example with police brutality and the Pink Tax. America is currently not living up to its key value, equality, because of the racial disparity and gender inequality that still happen in today's society.

The United States has struggled with racism ever since the beginning of America's existence, even though equality is one of the most important American values. One example of this is in treatment of black Americans and police brutality. Black Americans only make up about 12% of the population and white people make up 62%, but black people make up 25% of all fatal shootings by a police officer while white people make up 54% (Thomsen). There are many more white people in America, however these statistics show that the police are fatally shooting black Americans at a higher rate than white Americans. The harsh treatment of African Americans from police officers is the same as it was one hundred years ago, the criminal justice system has always been racially biased. In history the police were created mainly to stop

runaway slaves. Today, there may not be slaves but the systemic racism still continues and things need to change. Stated in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, all men were created equal, but people of color have not been treated with the respect they deserve in the past and they still aren't now. America is a country founded by equality, including all people of color.



The United States has had problems with equality in more ways than just racism, but also sexism. For centuries America has discriminated against women, who are stereotyped to be the “homemaker” of the household and aren't welcome in a work environment. Women have fought for their rights and are slowly earning what they should have in the first place. Many women are still fighting against the Pink Tax, which is a general term for the specific products that women have to pay extra for, such as razors or clothes. The men's version of these are the exact same, but they are a cheaper price. A recent study shows that women have to pay more than men almost 42% of the time for a women's version, which is about \$1300 extra every year (Elliott).

As if the wage gap wasn't enough already, women have to pay more for a product that is the same as men's, and even more for "luxury items" (period products). This unfair system in the nation's economy has allowed corporations to make feminine products more expensive, which reveals that they intend to make money off of the mindset that women are more willing to spend more on self-care products than men. Stereotypes like these have created a social and economic barrier between genders, creating even more gender roles in society such as the assumption that women cannot have a career in a male-dominating workplace. This is especially a problem in the United States because many people immigrate to America to have a better life by making more money. Many foreigners know that Americans take pride in their values including equality for all, but this cannot truly happen until gender equality has been put in place and it has become a norm in society.



Schick Hydro Silk for Women Cartridges
40 ea
★★★★★ 4.0 (180)
\$18.49 \$4.62 / ea

Overview:

- Water activated moisturizing serum
- 5 curve sensing blades for closeness
- Hydrates longer* than any other razor more

Ship to you
FREE shipping on orders of \$35 or more. Details
Arrives in 5-7 business days*



Schick Hydro 5 Cartridge Razor Refills
40 ea
★★★★★ 4.7 (144)
\$14.99 \$3.75 / ea

Overview:

- Hydrating gel reservoir
- 5 ultra glide blades
- With skin guards that smooth skin more

Ship one time
FREE shipping on orders of \$35 or more. Details



To the rest of the world America is believed to be the greatest example of what a country should be, however, the nation has not fulfilled one of the key core values of the United States, equality. In more ways than racism and gender inequality, America has shown injustice towards

multiple groups in the past and present. For generations people have protested against these types of discrimination and it still has not been solved. Equality is all about guaranteeing every person an equal opportunity to succeed, no matter their race or gender. We must continue to fight against all inequities before we are able to call America a nation for equality.

Elliott, Candice. "The Pink Tax: What's the Cost of Being a Female Consumer in 2020?" *Listen Money Matters*, 17 July 2020, www.listenmoneymatters.com/the-pink-tax/.

Thomsen, Ian. "The Research Is Clear: White People Are Not More Likely than Black People to Be Killed by Police." *News Northeastern The Research Is Clear White People Are Not More Likely than Black People to Be Killed by Police Comments*, 16 July 2020, news.northeastern.edu/2020/07/16/the-research-is-clear-white-people-are-not-more-likely-tan-black-people-to-be-killed-by-police/.