

Persuasive Speeches

All Lives Matter!



Surely all lives matter? Black Lives Matter is racist, isn't it? Why do you want to be oppressed so badly? Why do you only care about white cops killing black people, doesn't black on black crime exist?

These exact questions are the reason Black Lives Matter exists. When we say black lives matter, we aren't saying other lives don't matter. We're saying black lives also matter. There is so much controversy around black lives matter, and there shouldn't be, it was a movement created in 2013 to battle injustice, racism and police brutality, and in the wise words of Martin Luther King "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." So why are we being silenced still?

Well, we're being silenced because of "All Lives Matter". If you truly knew the real reason "All Lives Matter" exists, you for sure, wouldn't be saying it. All Lives Matter is a protest and hateful oppressive movement, used to silence Black Lives Matter and black individuals. So why do people use it? Because they're ignorant and don't understand why Black Lives Matter exists. If all lives mattered, then why would we need a black lives matter movement? Exactly, we wouldn't need it, so until Black Lives Matter, All Lives can't Matter.

Another reason Black Lives Matter exists, is because of white fragility. The exact definition of white fragility is 'discomfort and defensiveness on the part of a white person when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice.' White fragility is a massive problem when it comes to Black Lives Matter or any sort of racial injustice. White fragility needs to be dismantled in order for any kind of conversation about racism to be held. White individuals need to accept that it's an uncomfortable but necessary conversation to be had. We have to meet in the middle and until white individuals can stop being so defensive, we can't.

To further address the ignorant questions at the beginning of the speech, which may I add are actual comments I have seen all over social media, I have some answers. 'Surely all lives matter' well, of course all lives are important, but black lives matter exists, because black lives aren't valued in the same way that white lives are. 'Black lives matter is racist, isn't it.' Black lives matter is not racist, it isn't anti white, despite what ignorant people say, it is simply a movement in which black individuals are fighting for basic human rights. 'Why do you want to be oppressed so badly.' We don't want to be oppressed, but we are. Black individuals have been oppressed for well over 400 years because of the corrupt, white system. As for the last question, black on black crime isn't real. If a white person, killed another white person, that's called murder, it's not white on white crime, so why is it an different in a black person, killed another black person?

Black Lives Matter focuses on battling injustice, and as far as statistics go, there is still a lot more battling to do. There was a survey done in the UK, within the last month, and here were some of the results. When asked if the police have not treated you with respect, 49% of black Britons agreed, compared to 26% of white respondents. In the US, African American individuals are the most likely people to have a lifetime risk of being killed by the police. Per 100,000 people, 100 African American individuals are at risk to being killed by the police. My last statistic, although there are many more, is that black individuals, in Wales and England are 40 times more likely to be stopped and searched.

Black Lives Matter, is extremely important to me, I'm extremely passionate about the movement and if I could be out there protesting, I would. Black Lives Matter is extremely important to me because, what if one of the next victims of this racist brutality was one of my older brothers? My dad? My uncle? I am so fearful that one day, it will effect someone in my family, so it's extremely personal to me, when I see a young black man or woman being killed, when they have a massive family, their own siblings or kids. It's heartbreaking. So it's important to me to stand up with Black Lives Matter.

Remember, Black Lives Matter, now and always, not only will we fight for the justice of those who have died, but also for those who are living, thank you.

Tabitha T

Read the Persuasive Speech “All Lives Matter” and answer the following questions:

1. Who is this speech given by?

2. What is the argument foregrounded by the speaker throughout the speech? What is the speaker trying to convince the audience with?

3. According to the passage, what is ‘White Fragility’? Quote.

4. What are the persuasive devices used in the given speech? Mention three different devices and provide examples from the passage to support your answer.

5. From the passage, find an If Conditional Statement, write it down and specify its type.

6. “White fragility needs to be **dismantled** in order for any kind of conversation about racism to be held.” What does the word dismantled mean?

7. From the passage, find a modal verb that signifies ability in the past.

8. 'So it's important to me to stand up with Black Lives Matter.' What does this statement imply?

9. From the passage, find one of the most commonly confused words.

10. From the passage, find an adverb of manner and an adjective.
