English II: Racial Disparities in Policing Essay

Prompt

In an interview with NPR, Ta-Nehisi Coates argued that, "despite the media's recent attention to police violence against black men, he does not believe such incidents are on the rise; rather, he says, injustices have been occurring for years — and many of them can be traced to America's flawed judicial system.

"We've spent the last roughly half a century or so growing increasingly Draconian, stripping back people's rights in terms of how they deal with the criminal justice system, increasing the punitive nature of the criminal justice system once people are in the system's clutches — all of that is brought to bear when we think about each of these deaths."

In a well-developed essay, defend, refute or qualify the argument that policing in the United States is plagued with racial disparities that negatively impact people of color.

Requirements

- Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 12-point font, 1" margins, a double spaced body, and a simple single spaced header. Your essay needs to be shared with me at dpogreba@gmail.com by **class time on _____**.
- The response should be between 800-1400 words long.
- Your response should include both an introduction and conclusion, both of which should be short and direct.
- The essay needs to include **at least six and no more than ten** quotes and paraphrases from the articles provided and your own research. At least one of the quotes should come from the book *Between the World and Me*. Sources are provided on the class web site. Use a minimum of five sources.
- Make sure to follow all MLA formatting and rules for citation.
- Do not plagiarize!

Tips

- Have a well-developed thesis that you stick with. Organization is paramount.
- Remember the paragraph structure we discussed for the death penalty essay. If **each body paragraph has two main ideas**, it will be much easier to write the piece.
- Include at least one naysayer.
- Focus on a few things in this essay:
    o An engaging introduction.
    o A strong thesis statement that suggests a concession.
    o Incorporating specific details into your paragraphs to give them power and interest.
    o A strong conclusion.

Sample Outline for Racial Disparities in Policing Essay: Concession

I. Introduction Paragraph
    A. HOOK
    B. BRIDGE
    C. THESIS: Although African-Americans are more frequently arrested and even killed by police officers, we should not blame the police because there is no evidence that offers are racist and African-Americans are more likely to live in areas of high crime.

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1: **It's undeniable that** statistics demonstrate people of color are more likely to be arrested and be subject to violence from law enforcement in the United States.

    A. People of color are arrested and imprisoned disproportionately.
    B. **Tragically, some of these arrests** even lead to violence and death.

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2: **Despite** _____,
    A. SUBPOINT 1
    B. SUBPOINT 2

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3: **Even more significantly,**
    A. SUBPOINT 1
    B. SUBPOINT 2

V. CONCLUSION
    A. RESTATE THESIS IN AN INTERESTING WAY
    B. RETURN TO HOOK

Sample Outline for Racial Disparities in Policing Essay: Boomer

I. Introduction Paragraph
    A. HOOK
    B. BRIDGE
    C. THESIS: Law enforcement is **not only** too often characterized by discriminatory profiling and even violence against people of color, **but those who argue** that black neighborhoods should police their own behavior are ignoring the legacy of structural racism in the United States.

II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1: **Initially,**

    A. SUBPOINT 1
    B. SUBPOINT 2

III. BODY PARAGRAPH 2: **Even more significantly,**
    A. SUBPOINT 1
    B. SUBPOINT 2

IV. BODY PARAGRAPH 3: **Finally, those who would argue that** the real issue is "black on black crime" fail to understand the structural racism that drives crime and poverty in many areas of the United States.

    A. SUBPOINT 1
    B. SUBPOINT 2

V. CONCLUSION
    A. RESTATE THESIS IN AN INTERESTING WAY
    B. RETURN TO HOOK