

## Representation 4: Black Americans In The News

This exercise follows *Payback Time* by King Cosmos & *Looking at the LEGO Sculptures of Ekow Nimako*

### Step One:

#### Directions

Now that you have studied two black artists who are creating “representations” of black history and culture, and now that you have thought about their messages of empowerment and hope, ask yourself, “Are the messages of these artists the same message that we see in the news media today?”

#### **Select one current news story in which Black people have faced racism.**

You may choose to comment on the news story about George Floyd. On Monday, May 25th, 2020, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis by a police officer.

“A possibly phony \$20 bill turns George Floyd into another victim of death by police. It’s beyond comprehension or explanation, unless you’re black in America.”

USA Today

Read all three perspectives on this story.

Choose one news perspective to complete your notes.

#### American News perspective:

<https://www.freep.com/story/sports/columnists/mitch-albom/2020/05/31/mitch-albom-george-floyd-black-minneapolis-white-police/5291296002/>

<https://edition.cnn.com/us/live-news/george-floyd-protests-06-05-20/index.html>

#### Canadian News perspective:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7020523/george-floyd-police-use-force-canada/>

#### British News perspective:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52928304>

Title of News Story:

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Name of Publication:

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Date of Publication:

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Ask questions about text (what?), audience (who?) and production (how?).

Use your notes to write your third paragraph in this series about how racism towards Black people continues to exist in our culture.

### **Text - What?**

1. What kind of text is this?
  
2. Are there any stereotypes present in this text?
  - i) What is being stated about the Black victim?
    - ii) What is the cultural background of the police officer who inflicted harm on the Black victim?
  
    - ii) What is being stated about the police officer? Or officers?
  
3. What values are being promoted?

For example, what are we being told to accept in terms of tolerance towards others in our culture? What are we being told not to accept?

### **Audience - Who?**

1. Who is the target audience for this text?
2. How and why does this text appeal to its target audience?
3. How might this text be changing society?

### **Production - How?**

1. Who produced this text?
2. For what purpose(s) was it produced?
3. Who profits from the consumption of this text?

### **Step Two:**

#### Paragraph Writing

Remember to structure your paragraph by following the SEEES formula.

- S - Topic Sentence
- E - Evidence 1
- E - Evidence 2
- E - Evidence 3
- S - Concluding Sentence

#### Question:

Is this representation of Blacks in our culture discouraging or hopeful?

#### **Topic Sentence**

The news story about \_\_\_\_\_ in the media today is another example of the injustices toward Black (Americans) \_\_\_\_\_ that still exist today.

Or

The news story about \_\_\_\_\_ in the media today is a sign of progress from the injustices towards Black (Americans) \_\_\_\_\_ that have existed for many years.

**E1 Explanation #1**

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**E2 Explanation #2**

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**E3 Explanation #3**

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**S Sentence of Conclusion / Restate the Topic Sentence**

Restate the Topic Sentence in different words. Restate your main idea. Summarize your ideas. Use words such as: e.g. Therefore, All in all, Thus, As a result.

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