**Assignment 4\_Updated**

For this assignment you will provide an overview of your prejudice research essay and create a rough outline for the 1000 word essay

**Part 1 - Overview**

1. Explain your topic in one or two sentences.

**My topic focuses on how biases held by law enforcement officers can result in the use of excessive force and the mistreatment of minority groups when they interact with the police.**

1. Provide a working title (or possible options) and explain why you think this title will be compelling.

**Breaking the Thin Blue Line: The Role of Prejudice in Police Brutality Against Minorities - The expression "thin blue line" is used as a play on words that usually refers to the institution of the police, but in this context, it suggests the necessity to remove the obstacles that prevent police personnel from being held accountable for their acts.**

**Uncovering the Ugly Truth: How Prejudice Fuels Police Brutality Against Minorities - the use of the phrase "uncovering the ugly truth" suggests that the essay will reveal a hidden or suppressed reality about police brutality against minorities and For readers who are trying to understand the reasons of police brutality, the term "fuels police brutality against minorities" stresses the impact of prejudice on policing and suggests that it is a driving force behind the problem.**

**The Deadly Consequences of Prejudice: How Bias Shapes Policing and Harms Minority Communities – This title conveys the severity of the issue with the word “deadly.”**

1. Identify your target publication or website – it can be a blog, website, newsletter, etc.
2. Describe your target audience, including why you chose this them

**My target audience is made up of college students studying criminal justice.**

1. Briefly describe:
   1. what you want your audience to learn and

**Students should learn about how bias affects policing, how to educate others about the problem, the effects of police brutality on communities, and how to identify bias in policing.**

* 1. what you want your audience to do with what they learn.

**By providing them with this knowledge, I hope to help them comprehend the connection between prejudice and police violence and motivate them to take action to advance fair and just policing for all communities.**

**Part 2 – Summarize the research you will use in your essay.**

[Note that you may not need all this detail for your essay, but I want you to be sure that your article choices are relevant and useful for your essay.]

* **For each peer-reviewed research source**, describe the methods used (if there are multiple studies within an article, describe the methods for each one) and the outcomes of the research (what they found)

**Goncalves, F., & Mello, S. (2021). A few bad apples? Racial bias in policing. *American Economic Review*, *111*(5), 1406-1441.**

**The authors examined whether racial differences in traffic stops and searches could be explained by racial-neutral factors such driving behavior, the timing and location of the encounter, and officer characteristics using data from the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP). The authors employed statistical models to account for racial neutral criteria like the nature of the violation, the location of the stop, and the time of day in order to look into racial bias. They also took into account the officer's race, age, and number of years of experience. Even after adjusting for racial neutral factors and officer characteristics, the authors discovered that Black and Hispanic drivers were more likely to be stopped and searched than White drivers. Additionally, they discovered that White drivers were more likely to be caught with contraband than Black and Hispanic drivers.**

**e Implicit Association Test (IAT), a test for unconscious bias, was used by the authors in a separate study to check for the presence of implicit bias. According to the analysis's findings, FHP personnel had implicit prejudices towards Black motorists, which may be a factor in the racial inequalities in traffic stops and searches.**

**This resulted in the authors discovering that Black and Hispanic drivers were more likely than White drivers to be stopped and searched. Additionally, they discovered that White drivers were more likely to be detected in possession of contraband than Black and Hispanic drivers, indicating that racial bias may play a role in the choice to perform searches. Additionally, the study discovered that FHP personnel had implicit prejudice against Black drivers. The researchers discovered that cops have implicit prejudices towards Black drivers using the Implicit Association Test (IAT), which may be a factor in the racial discrepancies in traffic stops and searches.**

**Eberhardt, J. L., Goff, P. A., Purdie, V. J., & Davies, P. G. (2004). Seeing black: race, crime, and visual processing. *Journal of personality and social psychology, 87*(6), 876**

* **Study 5 – police officers shown Black (or White faces of real convicts) and rated how stereotypically Black (or White) they looked or how much they looked like typical criminals. The Black faces officers thought looked most stereotypical looking, were the same ones other officers thought looked the most criminal.**

**Correll, J., Park, B., Judd, C. M., Wittenbrink, B., Sadler, M. S., & Keesee, T. (2007). Across the thin blue line: police officers and racial bias in the decision to shoot. *Journal of personality and social psychology, 92*(6), 1006**

* **(In multiple studies) Denver police officers & lay community members played a “shoot the armed target” video game, with Black and White targets sometimes armed with guns, and sometimes not.  Community members were more likely to shoot unarmed targets than police officers, especially Black targets. With practice, community members got better at shooting armed (versus unarmed) targets, but the bias toward shooting Black targets did not go away. Though police did not shoot more Black targets, armed or not, everyone showed a bias in how quickly they shot targets, with the fastest shots going toward armed Black men. So, though police are better at identifying weapons regardless of race, they made the decision to shoot much faster for Black targets.**
* **Describe any other sources you will use and why you will include them**

A Growing Dilemma: How Police Brutality Affects Mental Health in Black Communities

**Part 3 – Essay Outline – *See page 2 for detail on what to include in your essay. Keep these details in mind as you create your outline***

1. Introduction / Lede – How you will catch their attention right away with 2 or 3 sentences

**Imagine you're walking down the street, minding your own business, when suddenly you're stopped by the police. You haven't done anything wrong, but the officer treats you with suspicion and hostility. This is the reality for many minorities, who are unfairly subjected to police brutality due to prejudice and bias. This reality is not only terrifying and heartbreaking, but it can also have grave repercussions, such as trauma, damage, or even death. This fact emphasizes how critical it is to take steps to eliminate bias in policing.**

1. Body –
   1. Highlight the key points you will make in your essay, paragraph by paragraph, and clarify what sources you will use for these points

**Paragraph 1: Bias in Policing, Paragraph 2: Educating Others About the Problem, Paragraph 3: Effects of Police Brutality on Communities, Paragraph 4: Identifying Bias in Policing**

* 1. Describe any examples you will use

**The severity of the issue through the use of statistics and real-life examples to illustrate how minorities are disproportionately targeted and affected by police brutality (not sure of the exact ones yet). Also, sharing the experiences of those who have been impacted by police brutality, I can encourage the audience to empathize with the victims and recognize the need for change.**

* 1. Describe how you will transition between distinct points

**To transition from discussing bias in policing to educating others about the problem, I might use a sentence like: "While understanding bias in policing is critical, it's equally important to educate others about this problem and what we can do to address it."**

**I could use transitional words like "Additionally" or "Furthermore" to highlight how raising awareness of the issue may help decrease the damaging impacts of police violence on communities.**

**To transition from discussing the effects of police brutality on communities to identifying bias in policing, I might use a sentence like: "To address the devastating impact of police brutality on communities, we must also examine the root causes of bias in policing and work to identify and address it."**

1. Conclusion
   1. Describe how you will recap key points

**Police brutality towards minorities is a serious and urgent issue that has an impact on all of us. Understanding how racism influences policing, educating ourselves and others about the issue, and the terrible effects that police brutality has on communities are crucial. We may strive toward a more just and equitable society by recognizing bias in law enforcement and advocating for reform. This is a fundamental human rights issue that weakens confidence in law enforcement and sustains structural inequity, thus it is something we should all be concerned about.**

* 1. Describe to your audience what they can do with what they learned

**The main thing I want my audience to do with what they learn from me is to educate others. Spreading knowledge about police violence and the negative impacts of bias on policing is crucial. This can be accomplished through discussing the problem with friends, family, and coworkers, sharing articles and studies, and taking part in protests and local events. They can also do other things such as, support communities that have been affected by the issue, possibly advocate police reform, and be able to identify bias in policing.**

**Essay details & guidance**

* Your introduction (or ‘lede’ in newspaper-speak) of 3-5 introduces the issue at hand and the specific argument you will make in response to this issue. The lede should entice the reader into reading the full op-ed and tell them why they should pay attention
* The body of an should be 3 – 6 paragraphs long and present the evidence. The paragraphs here are longer than the introduction and conclusion paragraphs, but shorter than the typical paragraphs in a formal academic essay. Discuss specific examples and present evidence from prejudice research in simple language (this is not an academic paper). While the essay aims to highlight the value of research, there is no room for filler, vague statements, or blanket moralizing (even if these may be commonly used in some of the op-eds published in national newspapers) – use the maxim “show, don’t tell.”
* Use examples to persuade your reader that research is important. One way is to draw comparisons and analogies that your audience will understand; use specific, detailed stories from your experience that people can relate to
* Show instead of simply telling.  An op-ed will be much more persuasive if you can focus on concrete details that your reader can see. Stay away from big ideas and don’t try to include too much. You are better off focusing on one story, one example that best illustrates your point.
* Briefly explain how each of your sources adds value - be sure they are maximally relevant to your topic!
* How to cite sources within your essay: You may describe the source & use footnotes. Only use exact or near exact quotes if essential and I recommend not doing so . All reference lists should be in APA format. If you are not sure how to incorporate source information, ask me!
* The organization of the argument is crucial. Each paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that describes the claim the argument will make.
* You should end with a concise conclusion and a walk-off. The conclusion summarizes what has been examined and why the reader should care about it. A conclusion should be about 2-5 sentences long. In some cases, authors will set off one sentence into its own paragraph for emphasis. The walk-off is the ‘what is to be done?’ part of an op-ed. Every op-ed should look ahead and offer a possible approach for next steps to address the issue at hand.