

Journal #10

For my community assessment assignment, my group, which includes Levar Folk, Karla Ponton. The community that we chose, was Brownsville, Brooklyn. My focus, within the assignment, was to discuss the structural barriers that residents of Brownsville, endure. Although there are many contributing factors, with why Brownsville, is in the current condition, the area that I really want to highlight, is racism. There are three levels of racism discussed in the reading *Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale* by Camara Jones. The three levels that she describes are institutionalized, personally mediated, and internalized.

Institutionalized racism, also classified as structural racism is defined as access to the goods, services and opportunities of society by race. This is the most obvious form of racism throughout history because this is the racism that people of color have inherited simply by being born black. Due to black people not having these types of advantages, black people continue to struggle trying to obtain what many believe to be the "American dream."

Personally mediated racism is prejudice and discrimination. "Prejudice means differential assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intentions of others according to their race, and discrimination means differential actions toward others according to their race. (Jones, 2000)

For example, a prejudice situation can be a black person applying for a job and a manager not hiring that black individual because of his assumption that black people are lazy. An

example of discrimination is the stop and frisk rule that allowed police officers to stop people of color who have no reason to be stopped other than the fact that they are black.

Exclusionary rules are explicit laws such as slavery and Jim Crow. These are rules were once legal and designed to systemically oppress black people. Inclusionary rules are laws, regulations, and policies that advance racial inclusion and equity. Last but not least, non-rules is the absence of the rules that allow discrimination and racially unequal consequences to persist. These rules have a close relationship to racism, and are prevalent because they once justified and legally allowed racism to exist in society. The fact that there was once rules and laws that allowed the type of mistreatment that black people and people of color faced shows the face of America. Due to this, black people are currently still trying to catch up in a society that placed them last. I look at Brownsville as a neighborhood that has been

placed last, specifically because of the black and browns that populate the community.

Citations

Jones, C. (2000). Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale.