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### Article Summary of Thoman Nagel and Williams Bradford Reynolds

Thomas Nagel's article on the defense of affirmative action presents arguments in favor of the policy. Nagel acknowledges that affirmative action involves treating individuals differently based on their race or ethnicity, which goes against the principle of equal treatment. However, he argues that affirmative action is a necessary remedy for historical injustices and ongoing societal inequalities. Nagel highlights the concept of "compensatory justice," which suggests that affirmative action is a way to compensate for past wrongs and create a more nondiscriminatory society. He claims that without affirmative action, disadvantaged groups would continue to face barriers and remain unequal in certain areas such as education and employment. Nagel also addresses the potential criticisms of affirmative action, such as the claim that it continues racial divisions. He argues that while affirmative action might initially create some tension, it is ultimately a means to promote diversity and integration. By allowing individuals from diverse backgrounds to have equal opportunities, society can foster a more inclusive and vibrant environment.

Apart from Nagel's argument in his article, William Bradford Reynolds' article emphasizes the importance of equal opportunity rather than equal results. Reynolds

argues against affirmative action and advocates for a standard approach. He believes that individuals should be evaluated solely based on their abilities and qualifications, regardless of their race or ethnicity. Reynolds contends that affirmative action policies, which involve privileged treatment based on race or ethnicity. He explains that these policies can lead to the accusation of individuals who benefit from affirmative action, as their achievements may be questioned due to the recognition of lowered standards. According to Reynolds, the focus should be on creating equal opportunities for all individuals, disregarding their background, so they can compete on a level playing field. He argues that efforts should be directed towards improving education, training, and eliminating biases in order to provide individuals with the tools to succeed based on their own justice. Reynolds also speaks upon his concerns about the constitutionality of affirmative action, suggesting that it may violate the principle of equal protection under the law. He advocates for a color-blind society where individuals are judged solely based on their abilities and qualifications, without consideration of their race or ethnicity.

In conclusion of both articles, Nagel defends affirmative action to solve for historical injustices and a means to promote diversity and integration. Reynolds emphasizes the importance of equal opportunity and a justifying approach. Their articles present contrasting perspectives on the issue of addressing societal inequalities of affirmative action.