

Ian Schulenberg: Equality Essay

What claim does each speaker share about inequality? How does each speaker's unique perspective support the universal need for equality in our country?

Write a six-paragraph essay in which you:

- Introduce the topic with a well-developed paragraph.
- Share the historical perspective of inequality in our nation.
- Share one author's perspective in a body paragraph.
- Share another author's perspective in a second body paragraph.
- Share a third author's perspective in a final body paragraph.
- Conclude using a paragraph.

There are many people who think that having unconscious bias or implicit prejudice toward people, certain races, or even different sexualities is perfectly fine, but is it? What are your thoughts on people that withhold this type of bias? There are a few people who have given speeches on this very broad topic and they are, Verna Meyers, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, and Emily Scheck. Now everyone of these authors share a different yet similar perspective on the topic of unconscious bias. These different perspectives on this topic could and most likely will change the way that you think about other races as a whole and you might even try to put yourself into their shoes and see it from their point of view.

The author's unique perspective on inequality is that she believes unconscious bias is not tolerable by the average citizens of America or any other country in the world. Verna Meyers most definitely describes this in this speech and here are some reasons why. The first piece of evidence that I picked out is this quote, "I need a break. I'm going to turn on the radio. I turned it on, and there it was: Ferguson, Missouri, Micheal Brown, 18-year-old black man, unarmed, dead, blood running for four hours while his grandmother and little children and his neighbors watched in horror, and I thought, here it is again." The next quote that I used is this, "I mean, I know we're not shooting people down in the street, but I'm saying that the same stereotypes and prejudices that fuel those kinds of tragic incidents are in us....I believe that we can stop these types of incidents, these Fergusons from happening, by looking within and being willing to change ourselves." In retrospect this means that all people, especially people of color should not just fight for

the rights that they already fought so hard for and deserve but to try and change themselves into not being stereotypical. In making everyone look deep into themselves and having the willpower to change their ways of racism and other stereotypes or biases this could make these things go away entirely and it's also the most peaceful way of doing so. The final piece of evidence that I picked out to help describe why Verna Meyers thinks that unconscious bias should not be tolerated is this quote, "And I saw this person across the street, and I was thinking, 'Oh great, a black Guy.'" I was going toward him without even thinking about it. And she was like, "Oh that's interesting." The guy across the street, he was a black guy. I think black guys generally know where they're going. I don't know exactly why I think that, but that's what I think. So she was saying, "Oh, you were going, 'Yay, a black guy'?" She said, "I was going, 'Ooh, a black guy.'" Other direction. Same need, same guy, same clothes, same time, different reaction." This shows that unconscious bias is everywhere and even in your friends that you might not think that they possess. By her telling us this story she shows that she is not scared about letting others know her friend has unconscious bias and that I show it should be. Now i'm not saying it is right to have unconscious bias or implicit prejudice but I feel like if you can't get rid of it then you should not let your thoughts become words. This also insists that this is just how black people that do this but in reality the general mass of people do this everyday. All in all this vividly yet simultaneously metaphorically describes Verna's point of view on implicit prejudice.

The author's unique perspective on inequality is that she doesn't really care what people what they do with their minds as in if you want to think a certain way of a certain race or sexuality then at least acknowledge what you are doing and how it makes others feel. My first piece of evidence that supports this perspective is, "What if I walked past you and later on you'd found out that I was actually a race car engineer, and that I designed my own race car and I ran my university's race team, because it's true. What if told you that I was actually trained as a boxer for 5 years, because that's true too. Would it surprise you? Why?" This quote describes how just at first glance a very good percentage of people that are being honest won't say something like, "Oh. You see that pretty girl in that dress over there? She has to be a coal miner right?" Everyone will most likely say something

like, "Oh that pretty girl in that dress over there has to be a model, she just has to be!" Another piece of quote that supports this perspective is, "Now funnily enough, no immediate change was registered until they asked the audition-ers to take their shoes off before they entered the room. Because the clickety-clack of the heels against the hardwood floors was enough to give the ladies away. In this piece of evidence she describes a story of how women weren't getting as many jobs as men in an audition when they were seen and heard. Keep in mind that all of this happened just because of someone's gender. Now think about if this happened to you. What would you do? I know I would be pretty mad and start yelling but these people didn't do that because they knew they wouldn't be able to change anything until this experiment. My third quote that also helps explain is, "Now get this, the results of the audition showed that there was a fifty percent increased chance a woman would progress past the preliminary stage. And it almost tripled their chances of getting in. Now to continue on the previous experiment with the auditioners the end result came to be that there was almost a 3 times higher percentage of getting in if you were a woman than before. My last and final quote from her speech that explains her perspective is this, "Because ladies and gentlemen, the world is not just. People are not born with equal opportunity. I was born in one of the poorest cities in the world, Khartoum. I was born brown, I was born female, and I was born Muslim in a world that is pretty suspicious of us for reasons I can't control. However, I also acknowledge the fact that I was born with privilege. I was born with amazing parents, I was given an education and had the blessing of migrating to Australia. But also, I've been blessed with amazing mentors who've opened doors for me that I didn't even know were there. This is very important and here's why. This describes the basic world that we live in today and that we never even give a second thought about and that being unequal opportunity. Once you are born the way you are you cannot change it so why do you get discriminated for it? But the right thing to do is that if you do get picked on or bullied (unconsciously or literally) then you should react in whatever way you think is right but before you do at least try to acknowledge all of the privileges you have. These privileges can consist of things such as schooling, clothes,

food, water, and even just a house to live in. This all explains how she believes that your mind is your mind and you can do what you want with it but just reenact and try and see what others might see and hear from you and your friends or many others.

Emily Scheck has a unique perspective on inequality and that is that she has been a part of it and in a very large way. She has been involved with the NCAA and the Canisius college officials just because of a small GoFundMe page that all started from her parents cutting her off after she told them she was lesbian. Emily is a huge part of the lesbian and homosexual community now because of this and she has become an inspiration for hundreds and thousands of people. This large inequality that she holds on her shoulders has also sparked some drive for her to make this speech and spread awareness just by making it be such a huge part in her life. She is affected by this inequality everyday in almost everything from making friends to getting a job. One piece of evidence that supports this claim is, "Her parents, who had been unaware their daughter was a lesbian, demanded she come home to the Rochester area, give up her partial athletic scholarship to Canisius College, commute to a local college and participate in counseling sessions. When she refused, her parents cut her off. "I couldn't even get groceries, initially," said Scheck, 19. "I was just really relying on my roommates and my girlfriend." I believe that this is very wrong to do this to your own kid just because she likes people of the same gender. Even if at first I didn't accept it at first and got really mad initially I would try to accept it and help her get through college. Also to add to all of this she was just 19 at the time so assuming this is her first year of college, she must have already had a lot of stress on her shoulders with school. Another piece of evidence that supports the claim is, "What happened next launched her into a public controversy over whether money raised for a student through a GoFundMe page should disqualify that student's athletic eligibility under NCAA rules. Scheck said she appealed to the college for help after her parents' ultimatum, but college officials were slow to provide any concrete solutions. After three months, a frustrated roommate posted Scheck's story on a GoFundMe page. Money started pouring in. But when the college alerted the NCAA to the GoFundMe page, Scheck's student athlete status and partial scholarship were suddenly in jeopardy." This shows just how bad of a situation Emily got put in just because of her sexual preference. But it

is also nice to hear that the people around her cared for her enough to take matters into their own hands and make a GoFundMe page to raise extra money. This whole situation is confusing and unfair but at least Emily and her friends are fighting for what's right and won't stop until they get what Emily deserves which is equality, and isonomy. Also, just because of her sexual preference this will automatically put her in the group of lesbians and gay people all across the world. Another piece of evidence is, "Canisius spokesman Matt reitnour said the college has been in contact with the NCAA almost daily to resolve the matter since college administrators learned about the GoFundMe page on Friday of last week. NCAA rules generally forbid student-athletes from using their athletic identity for any fundraising efforts." This is crazy how bad the college administrators wanted the matter resolved for the reason that college matters normally take weeks to get resolved but for the college to contact the NCAA daily to get a specific matter resolved is insane. But at the same time, this also means it's important to the college for the students and staff that they have been treated equally, yet fairly. The final piece of evidence that supports the claim that I have chosen is, "Canisius and the NCAA will continue to work together in support of Emily," Reitnour said. "She is a member of the Canisius family and we will do whatever we can to assist her." Things remain much less settled with Scheck's family. Scheck said she has no doubt that her family members love her and have regrets over how they initially reacted, especially after they saw the outpouring of fundraising support she received. Her parents and siblings, who are in counseling, struggle with what they have learned about her. Scheck said she's not ready to go home and be part of her family's plans when for months it seemed they didn't want her. "As long as I stay in Buffalo and I don't come home, they've made it clear that I'm still on my own," she said." It is also commendable to hear that the college wants to help with Emily's cause no matter what got her into the situation in the first place. Also although Emily falls into the category of white, lesbian females, she still acknowledges the way that her family treated her before hand and the difference of how they treat her now. She still believes that her parents regret the way they initially reacted but still thinks that they are making it clear she is on her own and will not be getting support from them.

This is also a very good reason to be saying this speech and to be spreading awareness of the lesbian and homosexual community. This just further demonstrates why she has chosen to do this speech and to elevate the amount of people who are aware of the implicit and non-implicit prejudice toward people of other sexualities.

Now all of this shows the general concept of what these authors very unique perspectives on unconscious bias is and it definitely demonstrates how it affects their own personal lives as well. What do you think about other races now after hearing how badly other people's thoughts put some people into jeopardy of being uneducated or homeless. Do you think that you can now see other races from their point of view and will try to prevent yourself from becoming just another one of the millions of people who just use implicit prejudice because they were taught that was right and have no ability to learn otherwise. All in all, this all demonstrates how badly these authors want unconscious bias not to hurt other people as bad as it hurt them.