

# Hazel Bache: 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.

Do you think that you personally have a bias against African American males or females? How about lesbians? I bet that even if you think that you do not have an unconscious bias against those groups of people, you actually do. Verna Myers, Yoruba Richen, and Emily Scheck all share a unique experience with different groups who experience inequality.

The inequality that the different authors experienced was more harsh and it was actually legal, meaning that it was allowed by law for races and genders to be segregated. Unlike our experience which isn't as compelling. In the speech called "I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King Jr. wants for African Americans to be equal all around the world. Martin also wants African Americans to stop getting abused by police officers because of their skin color. He explains that no African American will be satisfied until then. He explains himself, "There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'when will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable of police brutality." This means that African Americans, even though free, are not unjustified from attacks by the

police and the rest of the world. This is still happening even today, innocent black men are getting brutally beaten by police officers. While white men don't even shed a bead of sweat as a police officer approaches them. Another civil rights activist is an African American woman named Shirley Chisholm. She knows that deep down inside, many think that women have no ability to do anything, even if they don't admit it. People think that they can't keep an orderly mind and that they are too emotional. Shirley says in her speech, "The unspoken assumption is that women are different. They do not have executive abilities, orderly minds, stability, leadership skills, and they are too emotional." This shows how the author thinks about other people's point of view on African American women and how others think affects their role in society. Sojourner Truth was an African American woman, also fighting for her rights. She believes that it is unfair that since she is African American, no one will act like she is a lady around her and nobody will help her like they would a white lady. Sojourner explains, "Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives any best place. And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me!" Since Sojourner was an African American woman, no one wanted to help her because they figured that she did not deserve to be helped because she was African American woman. Although we may think that we have it rough and that we aren't treated equal, many that have given speeches about their equality have died, meaning that they were killed for believing in their rights. But their speeches and belief for their rights are still talked about today. So next time you think about your inequality in the world, just remember that you can make a change and that change may affect the world forever. Verna Myers is one activist working hard to make a change today.

White people as a group in general are super uncomfortable around black men. Verna Myers, an African American woman speaks about how people think that black men are dangerous and how we need

to step up and speak to them. We need to become comfortable with skin colors other than our own. We also need to stop pretending that we don't have a bias against black men. We need to express our biases so that we can overcome our fears. In Verna Myers' speech about biases against young black men, she explains this by saying, "Stop trying to be good people. We need real people." This shows that Verna Myers believes that everyone should admit that they are biased instead of pretending that they are perfect and don't judge anyone. Unless we admit that we are biased and are able to talk about it, the judging and bias will continue. The only way to become a "real person" is to admit our biases against black men. Most people refuse to admit it, so the bias continues and black men face harder challenges each and every day. Just see what they have gone through in the past, "It was especially hard to hear about the beatings and the burnings and the lynching of black men." Black men were beaten and killed for being black. Whites didn't accept the fact that there are other skin colors that white. They didn't think that blacks deserved to live. They believed that only white people should exist and that they will forever be superior to black people. Verna thought that she was a "real person," but she doesn't realize that she's pretending until she was on a plane with a female pilot and she noticed that she had a bias against women all this time. "I heard the voice of a woman pilot coming over the P.A. system, and I was just so excited, so thrilled. I was like, 'Yes, women, we are rocking it. We are now in the stratosphere.' It was all good, and then it started getting turbulent and bumpy, and I was like, 'I hope she can drive.' I know. Right. But it's not even like I knew that was a bias until I was coming back on the other leg and there's always a guy driving and it's often turbulent and bumpy, and I've never questioned the confidence of a male driver." Verna Myers always thought of herself as a good woman. She always thought of women as amazing and that they are more fantastic than ever. She thought that she would never have a bias against women pilots. Until she was on a plane and there was a woman as a pilot and there was some turbulence. She then finally realized her

bias that she never knew she had. Verna then became a “real person” instead of a “good person.” By admitting her bias, she can overcome her bias, unlike people who realize their bias, and then pretend that they don’t have one. If you want to overcome a bias, you can’t just pretend that you don’t have one. You need to admit it and be willing to entertain different perspectives. Emily Scheck is trying to make a change, just like Verna Myers, but she wants to make a change in her college and track team.

Have you ever done something or made a decision and your family is against it and say that you disgust them? A college track and cross country athlete named Emily Scheck is lesbian. Because of this, her mom texted Emily to tell her that she is now on her own and that she disgusts her mom. In an article about her twisted up story it explains, “Her mother sent her a text that read, ‘Well, I am done with you. As of right now, declare yourself independent. You are on your own. Please don’t contact us or your siblings.’ When Scheck asked her mother why she would do this, she said her mother texted back, ‘Because you disgust me.’” Emily’s parents are overreacting way too much. There is no reason that a mother should speak to her daughter this way because Emily isn’t murdering people, she is only dating another woman. This should not disgust her family. But that isn’t where they stopped. They wanted her to come home and give up her scholarship. “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” This shows that Emily’s parents are totally against lesbians. They don’t want her dating another woman. Her parents want her to give up her scholarship and return home because she was lesbian. It wasn’t just Emily’s parents that were involved with her decision on who to date. The NCAA and the Canisius college were also involved. When she opened a GoFundMe page, she earned thousands of dollars to keep her scholarship. But the NCAA and college were not happy with that. She could either keep the money and quit the track

team, or give up the money and stay on the team. “Both Scheck and a university spokesman said the information they initially received from the NCAA was that Scheck could either return all the donations and remain on the team while the college tried to work out fundraising alternatives with the NCAA's approval, or she could keep all the money and remain a student but leave the cross-country and track teams.” This shows that her college was also a little bit against lesbians. They are going against the rules because they don't want her to be lesbian. If she wants to stay on the team and do something she loves, she will have to give up the money she earned to prove to her mom that she is more than her mom thinks. Or, she could keep the money and leave the sport she loves. She decided to keep the money, but quit the team. Though, Emily still continues to fight and prove that lesbians are so much more than people think. Emily Scheck and Yoruba Richen are both lesbian, but Yoruba is really fighting for African American and lesbian marriage equality rights.

There are many different religions and races, but the unique thing about the LGBT group is that they come in all shapes and sizes. There are whites, blacks, muslims, asians, and so many other different races and religions that are LGBT. Yoruba Richen is an African American female who is lesbian and believes that everyone deserves rights, no matter what race or religion they are. In her speech, she talks about how gays and lesbians are unique, but deserve rights and happiness. In her speech, she says, “So on the same night that Barack Obama won his historic presidency, the lesbian and gay community suffered one of our most painful defeats.” When Obama was elected, the African American society was exploding with happiness because this means that there is another step up to their equality for now African Americans are becoming the president. But there was a decrease in rights for gays and lesbians because most people voted to get rid of gay marriage in 2008 in California. Many think that lesbians shouldn't be treated equal to straight couples. This was proven when, “In United States v. Windsor,

a 79-year old lesbian named Edith Windsor sued the federal government when she was forced to pay estate taxes on her deceased wife's property, something that heterosexual couples don't have to do." This means that when Edith's wife died, she still had to pay for the property she shared with her wife, only because she was lesbian and many believe that they do not deserve rights. LGBT folks are everywhere, meaning that they are white, black, and many different religions. Yoruba explains this in her speech by saying, "Maybe one more other reason for the relative quick progress of the gay rights movement. Whereas a lot of us continue to still live in racially segregated spaces, LGBT folks, we are everywhere." This shows that there is more hope for equality faster because LGBTQ groups are all around the world, because there is a much bigger population, situated across every part of the population. LGBT people are all around the world, almost everywhere you look, but no matter what race or religion you are, everyone should be treated equally with respect.

Even though most of us would claim to not have a racial or sexual bias, we do. Because we are in denial, these racial and sexual biases are extremely powerful. We could solve this problem if people admit their biases and teach their younger generations to do the same.