

Racial Injustice: George Floyd, Marches & Looting, and Creating Change

We are living through yet another historical moment, overlapping with our current COVID-19 pandemic. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd died at the hands of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. Floyd's death led to marches across the country, fighting for racial justice. Many of these marches turned to riots, including looting and destruction of property.

I feel compelled to provide information to you guys about what is going on right now. I am in no way the best person to teach about racial injustice. As a white, middle class man, I enjoy privileges in my life that make it hard to fully understand the injustices faced by POC (people of color), yet I also recognize that I can use my position to help create change. And you guys, that change starts now, and it starts with us.

Instead of creating one lesson plan and calling it good, I have been researching, reading, and compiling information to give you guys an understanding of the death of George Floyd, some history of racial injustice POC in our country have faced, information about the marches and riots that happened over the weekend, and information about how to create change. Every one of us has the ability to do *something* to help, including calling out people's use of racial slurs, identifying our own privileges, contacting our elected leaders, donating to organizations that help communities of color, etc. Discussing racial injustice is uncomfortable, so we tend to steer clear of it as a topic of discussion; however, we have to be okay being uncomfortable so that we can continue to learn and grow as a society.

I know the information I provided below is a lot. There is not an assignment to go with it. This is simply for your knowledge, to increase your understanding and make you more aware of why our country is responding the way it is. Read what interests you, and take your time. Share the links with others. Come into this with an open mind.

Please note: this information is presented to you to give a more thorough understanding of the events that have transpired. I attempted to provide information that was either as unbiased as possible, or that presents information from multiple perspectives. One of the most important things we can do when become informed on events is to use multiple, reliable sources from various different viewpoints. As always, you are encouraged to search out more information to help come to a deeper understanding. If you find a good article or video discussing these events, I would love for you to send it to me with your thoughts!

The Death of George Floyd

This article is from the BBC and gives a straight-forward, fairly unbiased account of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin. This is the event from which the current marches and riots stemmed.

[George Floyd: What happened in the final moments of his life](#)

Two sources with information about the police officer charged in the death of George Floyd.

[Derek Chauvin Charged in Death of George Floyd in Minneapolis](#)

[Derek Chauvin, officer arrested in George Floyd's death, has a record of shootings and complaints](#)

George Floyd's family's response to his death.

[This is how loved ones want us to remember George Floyd](#)

A Brief, Incredibly Not Thorough, Yet Hopefully Helpful History of Racial Injustice

The Kerner Commission was a study conducted in 1968 to investigate the race riots of 1967 and recommend steps for the future. Their results showed that social, political, and economic inequalities between Black and White communities (ie failed housing, education and social-service policies) continued to create separate, unequal communities in the US. The following article is an opinion piece about how, although underlying issues of racial inequality were identified, the government failed to create changes needed to address these causes.

[The 1968 Kerner Commission Got It Right. But Nobody Listened](#)

This source is from the American Civil Liberties Union, and provides links and statistics to educate readers about racial injustice and steps taken to try to address injustice.

[Racial Justice - ACLU](#)

This source provides links to dozens of articles, research, and studies about racial injustice, communities of color, etc.

[Structural Racism in America](#)

History of Racial Injustice & Marches, Riot, and Looting

Information about riots in history - when they have created change and when they haven't. The author states, "riots are not great solutions, but riots are usually caused by real injustices." This article is from 2015 and does not address the current marches and riots.

[Exploring Effectiveness of Violence and Riot in American History](#)

This article discusses the continuing history of racial injustice by discussing the history of slavery and racism in our country and abroad. This article was written in March and does not include the events of the past week.

[Perspective | The history of slavery remains with us today](#)

This Week's Marches, Riots, and Looting

The words we use matter when discussing these events.

[George Floyd 'riots,' 'violence,' 'looting': Words matter, experts say](#)

Perspective from Minnesota officials, identifying outside fringe groups interrupting marches to incite violence and destruction.

['There are anarchists': Minnesota officials say 'outside agitators' are hijacking peaceful protests](#)

An alternate view of this weekend's marches and riots, this article identifies a counterpoint to the argument that only protestors incited violence and destruction.

[Police Erupt in Violence Nationwide](#)

A brief article with Twitter photos of police officers across the country participating in marches.

[In Some Cities, Police Officers Joined Protesters Marching Against Brutality](#)

Video from Trevor Noah. His perspective is that of a Black man in America; he discusses injustice, and the comparison of responses over racial injustice and looting. There is some adult language in this video.

[Trevor Noah: On the killing of George Floyd, the Minneapolis protests, Ahmaud Arbery & Amy Cooper](#)

Opinion piece on how to respond to discussions about rioting and looting.

[How to respond to "riots never solve anything!"](#)

"Look for the Helpers"

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" - Mister Rogers

[White women in Louisville line up to form human shield to protect Black protesters](#)

[WATCH: Security guard bravely disarms rioters of AR-15 in Seattle protest](#)

[N.J. Police chief carries banner, helps lead march in peaceful protest of George Floyd Killing](#)

What WE Can Do (Becoming an Ally and Creating Change)

[How You Can Be An Ally To The Black Lives Matter Movement](#)

[How White People Can Be Better Allies to the Black Community](#)

[Guidelines for Being Strong White Allies](#)