

# \$rah Howard: 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.

*Many activists have realized an issue where unconscious bias has made a huge impact on people's lives. People have suffered from hatred, confusion, and people misunderstanding them. They don't realize that there is more to them than their religion and what they wear. They don't realize that they are showing bias, and they tend to deny it. What they need to do is discover their biases so they can overcome them.*

*During the times of segregation, blacks and whites were still legally separated, and women were still underestimated. Blacks weren't allowed to drink out of the same drinking fountain, go to the same bathroom, and women weren't allowed to go to school at all, and could only sew clothes for the family, cook, and do other mild work. In response, Martin Luther King Jr., Sojourner Truth, and Shirley Chishom all took action to set things right. Martin Luther King Jr. created a speech named "I Have A Dream". During his speech he said, "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 horrors of police brutality." This means that African Americans, even though free, are not unjustified from attacks by police*

*and the rest of the world. This is still happening, even today with the common black male getting beaten by police officers. This shows bias towards whites because police officers would never dare try to assault a powerful white man, but because it is a black man, they just say they are a threat and beat him up, put him in jail for no reason, or even shoot and kill them. This is still happening today. Officers are still pulling over black people, thinking they are thieves or murderers, shooting them, or arresting them, then forgetting it ever happened. Another well known activist who stood up for their rights is Sojourner Truth. She once exclaimed, "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 would help her because they figured that she did not deserve any extra attention. She is an African American who has no place in this world, she does not deserve any help. People still show bias towards men in modern days. In today's society, women get less pay than men for the same amount of work and effort put forth. They are still underestimated, and thought of as fragile, weak, and that they need extra help for something small and easy. If you add African American to the mix, white men just give up on them, and think they are too far gone to do anything useful and good in their lives. Since these African American activists took action to earn everyone equal rights, they have changed society today. Even though there is still great bias towards wealthy white men in power, the issue has decreased and people show more equality towards one another.*

*Martin Luther King Jr. was an amazing activists who still inspire people today. Although, issues are still occurring, so Verna Myers took a part in trying to solve the problems. Verna Myers is an African American activist who speaks in hope*

*that her listeners make an effort to cease violence against black men and recognize their biases. Myers exclaims through her speech, "It documents six million black folks fleeing the South from 1915 to 1970 looking for a respite from all the brutality and trying to get better opportunity...And I said, 'You know, this is a little deep. I need a break. I'm going to turn on the radio.' I turned it on, and there it was: Ferguson, Missouri, Michael Brown, 18-year-old black man, unharmed, shot by a white police officer, laid on the ground dead, blood running for hours". What Verna Myers had to listen to, about people getting brutally murdered for looking intimidating, and black men always on the run for the South, trying to find somewhere they didn't show bias against them, is distressful. People should not be murdered because they are born black, male, and they grow up to be tall. Black people deserve to have jobs and grow up to be successful. They deserve to be happy and have their own families. They can't do this if officers shoot them and leave them to die. Verna Myers makes the point, "I do a lot of diversity work, and people will come to me at the beginning of the workshop. They're like, 'Oh Ms. Diversity Lady, we're so glad you're here but we don't have a biased bone in our body.' and I'm like, "Really? Because I do this work every day, and I see all my biases." Many people believe that they are not biased and that they see everyone equally. They don't realize that being afraid of a person because of their appearance, them thinking girls are incapable of doing things that men can, are biases. Everybody has biases, they just need to discover what they are, to overcome it. Verna Myers is trying to convince people to open up to their biases, and by doing so, stop the violence against black men in our country.*

*Verna Myers and Yassmin Abdel-Magied both indicate that bias is an issue. Although, Verna Myers speaks for black men, while Yassmin just talks about bias in general. Yassmin Abdel-Magied is a female Muslim who graciously believes in equal*

opportunities for the Muslim religion. She believes that Muslims are not getting as many opportunities as others because of unconscious bias. During her speech, Yassmin explains, "The thing is, if we want to live in a world where the circumstances of your birth do not dictate your future and where equal opportunity is ubiquitous, then each and every one of us has a role to play in making sure unconscious bias does not determine our lives." Opportunities are scarce for Muslims. Nobody realizes how human and normal they actually are. When they hear the word Muslim, they immediately think of terrorists. This makes finding things like jobs much harder than it would be for white men. Yassmin thoroughly justifies "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." Nobody can control what they are born to look like. If somebody is born something other than your race, it is not right to discriminate them. They are born who they are meant to be, and people have to accept that. If everyone keeps going along with their bias, the world will never be equal or peaceful. Yassmin's mentors helped her to become who she is today. She is very successful and powerful to an extent. If everyone has a mentor, they can rise up against biases and become just as successful. Yassmin Abdel-Magied is an extraordinary activist who is suffering from a lack of opportunities because of unconscious bias.

Yassmin Abdel-Magied was willingly an activist who wanted to stand up for people who couldn't do it themselves. Emily Scheck is a completely different story. She was brought into the situation because her parents were discriminating her. She didn't want to be known for being known because she had a girlfriend and her family didn't like it. This all just happened to her. Emily Scheck is a very successful athlete

who has a scholarship in college. She runs track and cross-country. Until one day, her mother saw her with her girlfriend together in a photo. This day ruined Emily's life and relationship with her family. In the article, Disowned for being gay, Canisius athlete Emily Scheck will keep running, the author tells the story of Emily Scheck, "Scheck, a marketing major, said she was always close with her family until her mother saw the pictures of her daughter and girlfriend in August.... 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.'" Emily Scheck has always been close to her family. When her family found out she was gay, their relationship fell apart. This hurts Emily very much because she had a strong bond and she never thought her family would ever be this gruesome towards her, just because of who she chose to date. Emily's journey to disaster has just begun. The author continues to write, "When Scheck asked her mother why she would do this, she said her mother texted back, 'Because you disgust me.'" Emily's mother disapproves Emily and her decisions. She never would have thought about trying to understand her. When she found out, she immediately shut down and told her not to try to contact her or the rest of her family. The author shows how Emily's parents also reacted inappropriately, "Though Scheck owned a car, she said, her parents removed her from their insurance policy. And shortly afterward, her father drove to Buffalo from the Rochester suburb of Webster with Emily's remaining personal belongings, including her birth certificate, stuffed animals, trophies, childhood photos and clothing. He dumped them in her car and removed the license plates." Scheck's family went overboard making sure that she knew she was on her own. This hurt Emily and made permanent damage in their relationship. Her family stayed out of her life for many months, just leaving her to survive on her own, with no family.

*When they realized they were wrong, they asked for forgiveness and tried to get her to come home. Emily just said that they made it very clear they didn't want her in their lives, why would she forgive them? Especially after all the damage they did to her life. Because Emily's parents reacted to who she became in an aggressive way, her relationship with her family was abolished.*

*These three activists work tirelessly to resolve the issue of unconscious bias to make a huge impact on our society. People ache from discrimination, misunderstandings, and people hiding their children from them. They don't comprehend that they are much more than what they seem to be. They don't know that they are biased. They don't accept the fact that they are bias either. They just need to uncover their biases so they can demolish them. This will create equal opportunities for everyone.*