**Tyler’s Thoughts During and After Typing the Responses**

From typing in all of the responses I have noticed a view things that keep popping up. People are being extremely honest regarding this even if it is particularly dicey. In addition, people keep saying the media blew this way out of proportion. Also people have been honest that they really don’t know enough about the Ferguson case to make a qualified decision. As for the Garner case, the few people that actually mentioned it hardly ever knew what had happened (They said this outright) or they just lumped it together with the Ferguson case (i.e. “In the Ferguson/Garner cases....”). Also there was a nice mix saying that we should respond through education, love, peace, etc. but there were a few that said we shouldn’t respond or that we should respond forcefully.

Most people were saddened or disappointed by the events but a decent amount said that there shouldn’t have been any riots or racial issues in general. The police officer was doing his job. One response that really stood out was: “Quite honestly I’m not that surprised that these recent events have sparked so much discussion. And my consistant thought, at least with Ferguson, if the young male wouldn’t have committed a crime he would still be alive. As for the case in NYC I am less informed. But I trust our police force that they did what they thought necessary.” The response totally was opposite from what everyone else was saying and to be honest they did have a strong point that no one said yet until now.

More recurring themes:

* Shock that it even happened in today’s society
* Do not respond with violence
* People are easy to say “we can’t let this happen again” but don’t give any explanation on how to stop it from happening again.
* They also say that so and so isn’t doing the right thing but that can be very biased in itself. What I think is right, you may not think is right. Is there any way to make what’s right a fact and not an opinion?
* The police officer should not have used such excessive force on an unarmed man
* The police officer was right to use force to protect himself
* People still are separating groups by race, even in their responses.
  + “We need to continue to address these issues and actually listen to what the Black community has to say and validate their feelings and concerns.”
  + “...I have grown up in a household where we do not view blacks to be on the same level as us...”
  + “It’s sad that police distrust the black community & vice versa.”
  + “...primarily white/black communities”
  + “Join the #blacklivesmatter movement”
* People either have an opinion or don’t know what happened. No one really has said their opinion unless they have actually hear some of the facts related to the cases.
* Don’t fight fire with fire – the protests didn’t do anything constructive for the communities benefit.
* Some people said that we can’t actually respond with anything because we are in no position of power, we are not involved directly in the cases, we just don’t matter enough – one person said “Educate yourself. Educate others. Don’t take this lying down. We can make a change.” – I really liked this, this person really cares and still has faith in humanity

Responses that really stood out:

* “...I am embarassed by how other Americans have acted with finding out Wilson was not charged. Agree or disagree no American should ever burn the US Flag and act with such disrespect.”
* “We should be taking this opportunity not to jump into the politics & heat of a city far away, but be taking that energy & pouring into our own city to prevent another event from happening. Lancaster needs love, understanding, justice & equality just as much as Ferguson.”
* “...differences are not deficits.”
* “…All life matters; isn’t that obvious? But I guess the hate is too strong for us to realize....”
* “Obviously these events are terrible but there are major parts that are missed. Yes “black lives” matter but its slogans like that that are continuing to further seperate people by a physical characteristic undecided at birth.”
* “...Everyone makes mistakes and has done things they regret, so until everyone is perfect, we should not use those events to judge people.”
* “I am afraid that America is going backwards in time. We are going back to a time when certain lives do not matter. All lives matter no matter what. I am aware that I use the whiteness of my skin like a security blanket. I cannot imagine what it would be like for my skin to be so dark to make a bulls-eye on my back. I am afraid that too many people in power are not even aware of their own security blanket. Those in power cannot comprehend what is happening. I am afraid for my country and the state that they call post-racism and beyond lynching.”
  + I love this response. It is so full of emotion and honesty that it is simply amazing. I especially love the part “I cannot imagine what it would be like for my skin to be so dark to make a bulls-eye on my back.” I would never had thought of it this way but in all reality it is somewhat true. It was one of those things that when I read it, I got chills. They clearly took the time to think about this.
* “...They should not have to feel inferior or scared to walk in the streets of a FREE nation.”
* “I have been troubled by the events in Ferguson and nationwide. I have been afraid for the safety and well-being of my husband and my son – and all of the black men and boys who enter the world around them in fear. ‘I’m tired of being made uncomfortable in order for others to be comfortable with my presence.’”
* “...Always make sure to have all the facts before you react!”
* “...Be proactive, not reactive.”
* “...I wish I had a good answer to how to stop hatred in our world....”
* “My reaction is basically ‘Jesus, not this again.’”
* “It’s saddening to see how quickly our “United” country can become so divided.”