#ETOWNENGAGE TRANSCRIBED RESPONSES

Participants in the Elizabethtown College Teach-in were invited to respond to three questions following each class.

What was your reaction to the Ferguson, MO, Tamir Rice and Eric Garner cases?

How has your experience affected your reaction?

How should we respond to these events?

Below is a transcription of all the responses received:

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1) Living in a southern state I have grown up in a household where we do not view blacks to be on the same level as us. However I feel like no life should be taken without just cause.

1) What has been you reaction to Ferguson? How has your experience shaped this? My reaction has been confusion and sadness. Confusion because it’s still not entirely clear who is to blame, and how much to put on each side. Sadness because of the existence of so much violence, and the hatred and escalation of violence in response to these events, and the deepening of the distrust between the police and the victims and their families.

2) How should we respond to these events? We should respond to these events by coming together in these violent times to solve the problems that have led to these tragic events.

1) Made me realize how unclear the delivery of information can be.

Social change needs to occur at the macro level to help events like these from creating the same results.

Create advocacy groups or participate in one already occurring.

1) What has your reaction been to the events? It was sad to me to hear about all of these events. We need to offer equality to all as a country.

2) How should we respond? We need to respond through education. We need to teach tolerance and be culturally educated and our classrooms need to show that.

1) I’ve been distressed. It’s discouraging to see so little value put on human life because of race.

2) We need to stay loud.

1) The events unfolding are outrageous.

2) We should all respond in starting a change no matter what size - anything helps.

1) I grew up around people who accept all races so I think this is all ridiculous. If someone is doing something wrong, they need to deal with the consequences, regardless of race. This outrage needs to come to an end & destroying properties need to stop.

1) needs more research … where you grow up shapes how you think

2) teach people about issues

MLK Jr. would be in Ferguson, MO right now if he could. He’d advocate peace and justice.

2) we should focus more on the deaths of the officers killed in response rather than the accident that [illegible]

1) I feel like race has been stressed more than it had to be in the Ferguson case. I have tried to stay as unbias as possible and try to see each side of the case.

2) I believe best case scenario would be to stop pulling the race card.

It’s #BLACKLIVESMATTER b/c I have yet to see All lives treated wit the same dignity & respect (this would go w/ any minority treated [illegible])

1) I wasn’t surprised by them but it hurts me to see them happening. I have a lot of African American friends and family that I have to worry about because of these situations.

1) Police should be taught “DO NOT KILL” instead of “shoot to kill” and those officers involve should be convicted of their crimes.

1) Ferguson/Garner events make me feel unsafe and paranoid. I am not safe, even on Etown’s seemingly sleep campus. I am a white woman, so most people would think this doesn’t affect me, but they’re wrong. These events affect everyone, because these institutions affect everyone.

1) We should respond with education, with kindness, with peace and understanding – but we need to change the system!

1) My reaction – it’s terrible. I have never seen anything like it what makes it worse is that it did [illegible]

1) It’s sad that police distrust the black community & vice versa.

1) Really sad that there is so much controversy.

1) They are very tragic, but the riots are unnecessary.

1) All lives matter. It does not matter if you are male, female, Korean, African, Australian, black, white, blue, pink, etc. It doesn’t matter. Everyone deserves respect.

1) It shaped my reaction by realizing cops are not always following the law.

1) There should be a re-training of the police in these areas, if not all of the police in the U.S.

1) Because we don’t know exactly what happened due to unclear news reports, our response to the Ferguson/Garner events should be regarded with an open mind. It isn’t fair to cast judgement without clear and exact knowledge.

1) The events were apalling and depressing. However, it does show how inherently racist our country is.

2) As young college students shaping our minds, we should seek out intersectionality among our peers in order to better understand the priveledges we have and the priveledges others have. Then we can start to build a better America.

1) Personally, I am disturbed by the fact that racial bias still has such a strong presence within our society. The Ferguson case is only one example of how African Americans have been profiled in the recent media.

2) We should use events such as Ferguson and Garner as moments to initiate awareness and discussion. It is evident that minorities in our country still lack an equally respected voice. It is time to listen and to act.

completely shocked that police officers continue to do this and are not getting any punishment for it

punish the police officers to stop this from happening

2) With sympathy. Get unbiased facts out instead of the misinformation spread by media.

1) Police think they are superior to the average person while our country is based on equality. If someone breaks a law they should get the same treatment no matter who they know or who they are.

1) My reaction is that yes black lives matter but so do police lives. There aren’t riots when a black cop shoots a white citizen. African Americans want us to treat them with non-violence yet they are the only ones holding riots when things don’t go their way. Where is coverage on cops lives being taken? The media should cover all aspects of our society.

2) We need to be positive and not make a news story if their is not a news story.

What has been your reaction to Ferguson? My reaction was that it was a horrible tradegy that highlighted issues regarding two racial groups (generally speaking). The officer was doing his job, however his decision was clouded by bias. On the other hand, Mike did not deserve death, however due to the culture he was raised in he might not have been in that situation otherwise – so it’s mixed. How has it been shaped? By my race & upbringing values. How should we respond? With messages of peace & unity – NOT VIOLENCE.

1) I think the media has skewed the events. It has been too much about color & not about right & wrong.

2) I think we should be peaceful but I do understand the pain. I understand the actions but we need to accept each other.

It is horrifying that there are still race issues causing deaths in this country.

We should address indiscrepancies between privileges and opportunities available for different races and work to increase equality and education among all people in order to promote peace.

1) Sad, makes equality look impossible if people are constantly using racial differences as a reason for the events that occured. Seems to be loss of respect for authority, and makes me feel insecure.

2) Respond with moving forward and re-evaluating and assessing how to prevent future events from occuring. We should be looking at the facts and asking what we can do from preventing riots in the future. People need to be educated!

1) I’m a little concerned about how we use media. It is a good tool to pass info along, but the political and cultural splits that follow it, are sometimes its greatest weakness.

2) If we are concerned speak up. But dont make enemies out of innocent people or hurt your community. Violence is a real thing why do we act like its not? America has been though much worse.

I really don’t know much at all about the Ferguson case except what we discussed today. I feel like officers should have a lot more training and try to eliminate bias to not be put in questionable situations.

1) My reaction has been varied. Justice and equality should be for all. However, you must respect public servants like police officers. Laws should be followed and upheld regardless of who you are. People are ill-informed of the cases facts and to respond with violence (burning buildings, retaliation) is highly inappropriate and unsettling. #AllLivesMatter

2) We should respond peacefully, honestly, and in accordance with the law. Education will help the public understand topics like racism, and how it can impact those who may not experience it. The media should report facts and not abuse stories within the media.

1) I was very shocked hearing about these events. I do not think it is right or fair. The Garner event in New York blew my mind, as I do not think this event is okay at all. I think people, no matter what race or color need to be able to handle their actions better.

2) We should respond by raising more attention to these events. I think doing these things with our classmates help us get a better understanding of topics, and also raise our awareness by hearing other’s points of view. I thinking listening to others, and being there for them is a good idea, so they don’t turn to violence.

1) I have a hard time believing that this is actually still a problem. It is very unfortunate to hear. I was raised to be very accepting and it is amazing this is still a problem today with a world full of progress and growth. This should not be a problem.

2) Part of me feels that trying to teach acceptance is adding fuel to the fire. But not tolerating behavior that is racist should be a huge priority. It is unacceptable. Children aren’t born racist, they are taught.

My reaction was shock. It also is eye opening to see how racism is still affecting our society today. It also is interesting to see how each news outlet reports on each event & how accurate or inaccurate their reportings are.

The response should be peaceful yet powerful enough that they cannot be ignored. Attention and education to these matters need to be meet. Looting, rioting & hatred are NOT the way to do so.

I think the events are very unfortunate, obviously, but I wish I knew more about the shooting itself. I only know about the guy who was choked.

1) My reaction is dissapointed in how as a country we have handled this tradjety.

2) We should be responding with comparison, understanding, & most importantly love. As opposed to the anger & violence that people have shown.

What has been your reaction to the Ferguson, MO, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner cases? How has your experience shaped your response? **DISBELIEF**, horror, anger, confusion, disappointment, sadness
-I have experience all of the above in various forms at various times as these stories have unfolded. It is hard to understand what could have happened and how to feel – especially with the sensationalism of the media coverage. Trying to stay rational, yet blend my emotions and feelings together at the same time, had been challenging. I have a sincere appreciation for how hard police work must be, but it is hard to reconcile that with the apparent disregard for human life – regardless of the person’s skin tone.

How should we respond. We should respond by keeping open minds, and letting how we feel be known.

We can all talk about the problems at hand and share peoples views and opinions without judgement. Allow for open discussion for all ages because it is never to early to talk about other cultures and heritages.

2) What should occur: The people should react in whatever way they feel is appropriate. This is the US & we all have our own rights, interpretations, & beliefs. Media should not frame events, just give facts.

Get passionate, get involved.

1) I feel as if the situation in both Ferguson and the Eric Garner case in New York could’ve easily been prevented if there was a more in depth interview process to separate those who have racial biases. Also if there was better training then there wouldn’t be as many rash killings of civilians.

2) It is easy to go ahead and try to blame the police officers for what they did and not listen to both sides. They could be most certainly wrong, and for that reason I am shocked there was no trial. My experience has shaped my reaction because I’ve been around minorities and I know how they feel, but I also have learned how both sides of the story should be learned. There is a quote that I really like when it comes to this situation: “There are always three sides to a story: mine, yours and the truth”.

2) We should make police officers more accountable.

1) My reaction for these events is one of irritation. I can’t comprehend why they need to portray it as a mark of full prejuidice as well as a mark of all whites hate blacks.

2) We should respond by forcing the media to think of this situation as any other human vs human altercation not black vs white.

1) I am disgusted and disturbed because I thought racism was on the decline. It is very saddening to see it still apparent.

2) Everyone must be made more aware of every bas decision they make and how it affects so many. There is no excuse to such behavior.

2) There needs to be communication. We must address the problems & topics no one wants to talk about. We are dismissing the real issues. We have to calm down and take a step back. We all matter

1) I have been surprised about how the events of the grand jury could influence the town of Ferguson to spiral down out of control. Watching the riots on the news have openned my eyes to how much race has become an issue in the U.S.

2) We should monitor our enforcement systems, and make sure that race isn’t the subjective reason for why an officer makes an arrest.

2) Raise awareness.

2) That’s a fantastic question. One for which I don’t have an answer. But killing police officers in not the answer. It will only create a further divide.

1) At the time that the events were occurring I didn’t have much of a reaction because the end of the semester was around which meant stress. Now that things have calmed down I have had time to think and my initial reaction was that I wasn’t surprised by the outcomes. It is unfortunate that even today such events and outcomes are unsurprising. I think my experiences have a lot to with my personal reactions to the event. Being part of the minority in a largely caucasian minority I still think we haven’t been able to overcome such issues. But I also understand why certain decisions were; I may not entirely agree, but I do understand.

1) I’m outraged, and have been from the start. Most of the news I got on the events was from social media coverage. I’m glad.

Ferguson is a man: Festation of tensions & conflict that are present in our society each day, & it has just come to a head at this specific instance. I have experienced racial ignorance in myself & those close to me & seen the hate these tensions can create in people. I think we need to be introspective & assess our own behaviors & feelings to see if we need to make changes in our own lives, & encourage everyone to do so.

1) shocked at how it was handled. Should have held true to protocols.

2) critically think about how AA are being portrayed in media.

1) I was shocked at the outcome of the Ferguson event. I feel like they are overreacting a little and do not need that much enforcement for such a small town.

2) I’m not sure how society should deal with Ferguson.

There needs to be some way to ensure that these events do not occur again. There also needs to be a way to ensure that the media does not change the views of everyone to believe something that is not true.

1) Cops lives matter.

It shows that people with power/influence can get away with more than people who are viewed as lesser. I won’t pretend to have any idea how to fix the situation. It’s too big for one idea or one person to solve it.

I am sad our country is again in conflict.

IT’S FAR AWAY.

I am not sure how to feel. Such a complicated situation right now.

I’m so thankful teachers in E-town are making a step to educate us on this important topic!

1) I realize that I am oblivious to most of the tension in the U.S., and need to learn more in able to understand the differences that are common between primarily white/black communities.

1) Nobody knows enough about the Ferguson incident to have the privilege of voicing an opinion. The Garner event was however inexcusible and those officers should be tried in court.

2) We cannot respond to Ferguson until the investigation has concluded.

1) I was surprised. I did not know that people react to demons.

2) See what the Bible says about demons.

1) It has really opened my eyes about how sensitive the topic of racism still is.

2) With an open mind to the past scars that are being opened up. Do everything in love, not in violence, pride, fear, or hate.

1) My reaction is that we shouldn’t make it into this whole white vs black or officer vs black idea but, we should see it as human vs human. The officers don’t represent all of the officers and all whites.

2) I think we should respond in a way that shows the equality of life and we need to stop pulling the race card on everything someone does.

1) This is a situation that should be discussed because a human life was taken. It is not necessarily important what race the victim was but that it was a human life, period.

2) I believe that we should learn from this situation and put in preventive measures that save lives in every way possible before taking them.

1) Shocking. It is 2015 and you would hope these tradgeis were a thing of the past.

2) Hope for a better future but understanding of the pain and discrimination people are enduring.

My reaction has been confused. Haven’t really been informed by it until now. Be more informed.

1) To be honest I have not followed either cases. While I do believe that in the Ferguson there was wrong acts brought on by the cops I don’t know anything about Garner.

2) Peacefully. Not with riots.

1) The controversy is incredible because innocent individuals are killed every day by police “misconduct” (to say it lightly) and the news doesn’t cover it. Suddenly it is made into a big deal.

1) The Ferguson events have spurred many other related issues of race and violence. I think it’s frightening that events like this bring up so many unresolved issues in today’s society still.

1) 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.

1) Reading about these events was hard and difficult because it was a very touchy situation. In ways people can voice their opinion but in a decent non discriminatory way.

1) I have felt very unpleasant about the entire situation. I understand that a death of a person is never a positive thing, but for people to violently protest does not make sense to me.

2) We should respond by understanding where both sides are coming from. Also I believe the media should not continuously show what happened. This brings in people who have no clue what happened.

1) My Reaction: In awe and shock that people began rioting & destroying their own communities over the case. I feel if someone is unsatisfied with the decision, peaceful demonstrations should occur, not violent ones.

1) I have been sympathetic to parties involved, but empathetic to the situation, [illegible] I don’t have all the info.

2) I am a person who wants to have all the info before making or having a impression.

3) If situation is racially charged, take steps to reduce incidents. If not, alter the way perceptions are delt with and address public to calm them.

The recent events that ocurred in Ferguson have had an enormous impact on me despite not being American. The lack of humanity that is depicted by these events is heartbreaking. It is truly sad that such a modern civilization like ours cannot still learn how to love.

My reaction to Ferguson is that while the cop could have responded differently, he did respond as he was trained. Police are taught to fire their firearm with lethal intent and so he resorted to his training. Training such as this needs to change. However, I am not sorry for Mike Brown. He attacked an armed police officer and resisted arrest. Then people took this chance to protest and lost, something as much counterintuitive to relieveing racial tensions as it was stupid and barbaric.

I believe the situation is blown-up. Having family in St. Louis and have been in Ferguson, a 90% black population, I am not suprised this is a race issue. The issue should be focused on police brutality, which I think is true in some circumstances but not in any case recent. All lives matter not just blacks, in the end if you commit a crime or racist or act aggressive towards an officer be prepared to be put down.

My reaction has been saddness because of the events and some of the reactions from others around me. My experience has shaped my reaction because I have a connection to the victims culturally and racially. Some of the opions of my peers concern me because it seems that they don’t understand how these events are severly disturbing.

2) We need to stop acting like different lives are prioritized differently. It should not be about “black lives matter” or police lives matter.” All lives matter.

1) I’m disappointed in the Ferguson/Garner events going on. I believe they are tragic stories but I also believe the media blows them way out of proportion. People should not be reacting in this violent way after an event like this.

2) I think people should be saddened by these events and wont change but should not go about it in such violent ways.

I think that this topic is controversial no matter from what perspective it is looked at. There will always be controversy in such matters. It comes to being able to find evidence and hand facts that justify decisions. In the end I think such topics should be discussed because that’s the only way we can learn and grow.

We should respond to the events by:

* Having schools talk about it
* Having community meetings
* Further discussions on the news/television programs.

What happened? All hell just broke loose!

1) Ferguson getting so much attn!

2) Less criticism of policeman doing his job!

3) Raised valuing policemen’s will to do job

2) We should learn from it & fight for justice, don’t let it happen again.

2) We shouldn’t, the situation is only getting worse by blowing it out of proportion.

2) I have mixed emotions for that question.

1) My reaction prior to this lesson was mostly confusion/indecision on what to believe, because I have heard opinions and information coming from opposing sides of the debate.

3) We should respond to these events by looking at some of the biological occurrences in addition to the ideas of nature vs. nurture in situations such as these. All angles of peoples beliefs need to be analyzed.

1) I believe it is a very tradgic incident. I believe there needs to be changes in our society.

2) We should react in nonviolent protests.

Everyone will respond in a different way. Discussing what happened will no longer help. The world needs to move on and not let things like this happen again.

2) I feel as though we should keep a centrist viewpoint as well as refrain from violence in these situations.

1) I believe the jury is wrong in their choice not to indict Darren Willson. I come from a family of NYCPD members, who have taught me a lot about the training of cops. Darren Willson used excessive force on an unarmed man and should not be walking free right now.

1) I believe that since the police officer felt endangered that he should have the right to protect himself & others around him.

2) I wish I knew an appropriate way to react to this situation. It may simply take a change of mind and heart as a whole society. Certainly easier said than done.

1) I am deeply shocked by the disproportianate amount of white police officers making up the population of the police force that represents the majority black communities.

1) It makes me feel uncomfortable that such trageties have occured because of race. I have a different perspective now on our nation.

1) I knew about the incident but not in full detail because I personally don’t pay attention to the news, based off that, I had no true reaction to what happened other than shock & confusion.

1) I had an interest in viewing the legal facts in this case and what statutes constituted in the jury’s main decision. After this examination, I agreed with the court’s decisions and many of the facts used in this case.

Reaction: My reaction to the Black Lives Matter is that it is an important issue to address. People need to take a stand.

1) Racism is still a large problem within our country. Why do we all have to try to avoid? Why avoid it when we can bring up the topic and discuss the topic and figure out what the main problems. Everyone needs to be created equal. I don not mean that we are the same. I mean share your experiences with others so others know what you went through.

What went wrong? How have I not seen this evident issue before?

1) I think it brought to light the underlying issues that our culture tends to ignore and has forced us to consider how to move forward.

2) I haven’t had much experience with these issues but I believe all people should feel safe and it is not up to the majority to tell them how to feel.

3) 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.

1) I have not really stayed up to date with tall of these events so I don’t really have an opinion of it.

2) We should respond to these events with less public response & violence then what has been occuring.

2) Join the #blacklivesmatter movement

What has been your reaction to Ferguson?

* I think there isn’t enough evidence for me to feel confident in making an educated opinion about what was right/wrong.

How should we respond to these events?

* Try to improve our actions so similar events don’t occur.

How has your experience shaped your reaction?

* My experiences would tell me to side w/ the police officer automatically, but I don’t know exactly what happened so I won’t.

1) I think it was a horrible situation, but we will never know what really happened.

2) We should focus on education

1) I haven’t followed the Ferguson protests as closely as I should have, but I believe that the violence only incites more violence and therefore discussion is necessary to fix the problems.

2) Being able to discuss issues in a calm environment would help to address the issues being portrayed.

I think we should invite civil rights lawyers to speak regarding black and white race relations in America.

1) My reaction is general saddness that the country can yet again be torn by race.

2) Honestly I don’t know how we should respond. I think probably one of the only things we can do is to educate people and make sure our police force is getting proper training.

2) Violence is always the wrong way to handle any situation. I believe talking about the issues and being just and fair in handling them is the best way to avoid future events. We need to learn about stereotypes and show that they are not always true (black people are poor and dangerous) in order to avoid treating others in certain ways.

1) I haven’t really been reacting to the events in Ferguson. I feel that all lives matter and nobody should be killing anyone.

2) Unsure how the US should be responding, maybe with more peace efforsts.

1) It is a complex situation. Evidence must be weighed from each side of the argument.

2) I have not lived as a minority or been profiled due to my identity.

3) We should be cautious in making judgement, but keep the discussion open.

1) I didn’t even think of the race of the individuals before the media blew up over the “controversy”.

2) I think we have a police brutality problem more so than we have race problems, overall.

3) Police wearing cameras should help – if people want have a better initiative to allow more black people in the police force.

1) Really the only thing I’ve gathered from Ferguson is how polarized the controversy is. Everyone has very strong opinions and I honestly don’t know my position. There are so many gray areas and special circumstances that make it very hard for me to form an opinion.

2) I haven’t experienced many acts of racism such as this so that’s why I don’t really know how to react to it.

3) We should learn from them. Fill the blurred lines that make this such a controversy.

2) I did not really pay much attention to that events at the time; However, I totally against what the Police officers did. Humans are humans no matter what their race is. Police officers should hold responsible for their crime or people would say that history will be repeated as black men never had respect.

1) Against it, shouldn’t have killed him, police were wrong. I have always been towards the peace side of things and believe killing is wrong no matter what. I also believe blacks are discriminated against.

2) We should punish the policeman and make laws to prevent this in the future.

2) It should open our eyes to race equality.

1) Rather unsettling event from my knowledge. It’s unfortunate to see not much has changed regarding how black people live their lives. Grew up in a rather wealthy area so I have experienced plenty of racial discrimination throughout my life.

2) Should respond without violent tendencies but that seems to be apparent whenever people have the chance (i.e. riots in Missouri)

1) Reaction to events? Experience? I wonder why the officer shot the man when he seems like he was surrendering.

2) How should we respond? Make some changes to the criminal justice system.

1) My experience of these events would make me really upset and not to respect police officers since they don’t respect human’s rights, they shouldn’t consider people’s race while they’re doing their job.

My reaction has been for the worst part concerned. I believe, police brutality, discrimination and white privelidge are in fact issues. Although my experiences have never been affected by these issues, I still see the problem.

In all honesty I have no idea how we should respond, but with care and with a determination to make a change.

1) I feel that people focus more on one side of the event and that people need to form their own opinion and understand both sides.

2) Judgement should not be made as a whole for one group but given to that certain individual.

1) Racism is a severe problem in this country. It is sad how the media portrays/shows certain events.

2) The media should report more accurately and people should continue to inform themselves.

1) My reaction to the event is Ferguson was shocking because of the riot that arose. I felt that the way the people went about protesting was wrong by burning and looting stores. If they would of protesting peacefully I feel the outcome would of be different.

2) We should respond to the Ferguson event as a learning curve for both races involved.

1) I think that it is sad that in a country with so many advancements and priviledges we still struggle with issues regarding race.

2) I think we should have listened to both sides better with a lot less judgement and pointing of fingers.

My reaction to the Ferguson event is very surprised/embarassed. 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.

1) Reaction to events, experiences shaping reaction. I was shocked to hear about how out of hand the rioting and follow-up shootings have been happening. I grew up in a community where you talked things out if you had a problem with someone, not using violence.

2) How should we respond? To become activists and voice our opinions and to accept diversity in any form.

Respond openly – lives matter, all lives.

Change must be made. What will you do?

1) I heard what was happening and it disgusted me so much I could not even think about it without getting upset.

2) Justice should be served for the wrong doings. I just want everyone to be at peace and happy.

1) I don’t agree with the results of the case.

2) There should be more thought put into what happened.

My parents watched the coverage since the event took place. I didn’t begin really listening to it until a few weeks in. I was more upset by the aftermath of what had taken place. What I learned growing up and my parents’ values taught me my opinion of the situation.

2) How should we respond? As we talked about in our class discussions, we should make people aware of the differences people have. We all have different experiences and they should all be valued.

The Ferguson events surprised me and encouraged me to think about racial inequalities. My experiences as a future educator encouraged me to look at the events through various lenses and react accordingly.

How should we respond? I believe we should respond by looking at the situation though different perspectives and finding possible solutions behind the escalating events of Ferguson.

1) Reaction to Ferguson case? How has your exp. affected your reaction. I was shocked and dissappointed that the events in Ferguson took place. A loss of life is tragic regardless of the circumstance. It is frustrating to see people use this tragedy as an excuse to loot, as well as push the agenda of institutional racism. My experience throughout life, such as living in a diverse area and tolerant upbringing affected my reaction by finding it hard to identify with those that experience racism, as well as those who committ racism.

2) How should we respond? We should respond by raising awareness through educating and informing the public, rather than forcing our own agendas onto the public by pushing them to take a side on the issue. We need to inform the public on how to co-exist and raise awareness on ways to celebrate other’s differences, putting emphasis on the fact that differences are not deficits.

1) My reaction is a form of shock that this issue did not arise sooner with the large number of white cops in largely black area. My experience through sociological classes and personal research allowed me [informative in] these differences. [Partially illegible]

2) This issue could be addressed by a more [illegible] police staffing in the community rather than [illegible] police officers.

1) I don’t follow the news closely enough to make an informed decision although from what I did know I agreed with the ruling that was made.

2) It has been shaped by my experience growing up in a predominantly white area.

3) We should respond with education on the issue at hand like we have here at Etown

1) It’s horrible. It’s hard to believe that innocent lives are lost for any reason.

1) My reaction was simply that it is sad this happened. I wasn’t there to see it so I do not believe in picking a side on who was right and who was wrong. But I think this should be taken as a lesson that something needs to be done differently.

2) We should respond from an outside point of view. Really look at the facts of what happened instead of picking a side.

1) I really did not see the importance of the case when I first heard about it. I figured it was people overreacting.

2) The country should look at this and rethink how we view different races and violence in our country. We should realize that all life is valuable no matter race. We should also realize that there are rules and procedures to follow.

1) Honestly, I am not sure what to think. I believe everyone is important and every life is valuable. Who is in the right as far as the case; I can’t say. There are so many strong feelings surrounding the case that makes it difficult to judge.

2) We should respond in a way that promotes peace, justice & draws communities together rather than causing further divisions.

1) What really happened? Why do people think it is okay to raid and loot a city after such a situation happened. Shock is my honest reaction.

2) Awareness, Discussion – what could we have done to prevent these types of things from happening? What can we do now to prevent future situations.

Reaction to Ferguson? The impact on me? Unsure who to believe, I wasn’t there and everyone isn’t born evil also people aren’t born perfect.

How should we respond?

Sympathize with the Ferguson community, get their input and feelings toward the incident in a more personal environment, not only in a court setting.

1) I was shocked to hear what happened in Ferguson. After hearing both sides of the story. I understand the family’s grief, but I also understand the officer’s reaction. I believe he may have reacted a little excessively but he did have the right to protect himself, just as the young man had freedom to make decisions that ended up in him breaking the law.

2) I think we should react nationally after hearing both sides of the story. Only after analyzing all of the evidence and details can we have a clearer glimpse of the truth and what really occurred. In the end, though, only those present at the event know what really happened. The rest of us can merely guess.

1) I disagree with the public actions after the trial. There is an appropriate way and an inappropriate way to express your views on the Jury’s decision. Although the trial is over – the discussion about such affairs are not.

2) Open discussion not violence.

1) My reaction to the case is that Michael Brown’s actions did not justify his death. It has made my [illegible] for the well-being of my son & husband (both black males).

2) We should consider how police may be over-reaching and doing harm as well as greed. I think giving police consequences does not dimish the good they do.

My heart is grieved by the events unfolding in Ferguson. It makes me realize how narrow my experiences with people of other races I engage with.

We should respond by praying for peace. We should be encouraging reconciliation. We should get our heads out of the hole in the ground we’ve created and stand up, look around, and love our neighbors.

1) I started out not being well-informed on the situation, and not wanting to make any definitive decisions about it. As I learned more, I realized that the evidence seemed muddled. I thought a trial would be a beneficial way to sort through the case but I was shocked by the lack of an indictment. It make me wary, feeling like something was being hidden.

2) We should continue to discuss the case’s implications on future situations of a similar nature and on the topics which are part of its context.

What are my reactions to Ferguson? People are creating an issue because Michael Brown was african american killed by a white officer. We are bringing the race issue back, when in reality there was probably a similar situation with an African American officer killing a white criminal somewhere.

2) What should our reaction be? It is good that attention was brought to this but it should be treated as any other case.

1) No one should be treated that way. We are all human and somewhat alike.

2) People should look at this issue in a different perspective.

1) I felt bad for the family of Michael Brown because they lost someone so young. I didnt think it was fair that he was unarmed.

2) The police should have more training toward these types of instances.

1) Police Brutality that would otherwise be dissmissed if not for it’s reoccurring issues in minority communities.

2) We must realize there are differences within our human race and they cannot be ignored.

1) Anger at what was happening and fear for the direction our society is heading in. Specially for the younger generation.

2) We need to learn how to treat each other as equals.

1) What’s your reaction to the Ferguson-Garner events? How has your experiences shaped your reaction? Its a horrible thing however etown handled it badly.

2) How should we respond to the Ferguson-Garner events? Not the way Etown did by saying “Blacklivesmatter”. We should be teaching that all lives matter.

1) It is sad to see at this point in time that racism is still so prevalent in our society. It is frustrating that for some people, acceptance is such an impossible goal to reach.

2) I think that the more the people are repressed, the more violence will occur. I think people need time to greive & let things cool down. Unfortunately Im not sure if our society will ever be completely free of racism.

1) My reaction to the events have been indifferent. Firstly, as a half black male myself and someone as being very liberal, I try not to engage in political events because of the arguments they create.

2) I believe there should be more “credibility” for officers and responsibility. Whenever an officer shots a “criminal” they always check and try to get help. If its evident the officer didn’t do anything, then they should be held responsible.

1) I don’t really know too much of what happened. My parents don’t see why everyone’s mad @ the police for doing their job but others feel that these riots are needed to protest. I just try to stay out of it.

2) In a perfect world, just tell the truth to everyone. Having everyone think diff. things happened gets us nowhere.

1) I feel that these events have made clear the unfortunate fact that racial bias and abuse of power are alive and well in the world today. People need to be willing to have open and honest conversation on the topic in order to learn how to end it.

2) All lives matter and people need to realize that to end the violence and uneeded death.

1) Independently of sex, gender or race, people should be treated in the same way. The people on the pictures and on the article were judged guilty even before being properly judged. Nowadays, the white people, learn different things. However, none of these fears is as big as the fear of being dead for no reason. Therefore, the black people suffered and still suffers more than the white people.

2) The world has to be changed. Everyone must be treated the same way.

1) In response to what happened with Fergusion, everyone views it differently and it all depends on who you ask. My opinion of the situation, I think that it was an unfortunate event and shows that people feel differently about each other and do things based on their beliefs and doesn’t care about it being social acceptable anymore.

2) Going forward and things we can do is have more people being away of situations have have discussions about it and inform people of whats going on.

1) I have never been in any type of similar situation but I feel as though these were awful events. The media had so much control over the events that it seemed difficult for many viewers to hold their own opinion.

2) What should we do? ---> Not rely on the media to shape your opinions. People should educate themselves without the input of others hovering over them and tainting their thoughts.

1) I think that everyone has to trust in the justice system of America. At the end of the day a weapon was present and the officers acted and everything else falls by the wayside.

2) Going forward in the future we need to make society as a whole more racially accepting and be open to everyone regardless of the way they look.

1) My reaction to the recent events is sadness. It is making me question my faith in the humanity of our society. I went to a very multicultural elementary & middle school, but a predominantly white high school. This allowed me to notice the difference in people’s willingness to accept differences, whether it be ethnicity, race, etc. As a result, I think I am very accepting of everyone, and was shocked to see that these issues are still prevalent.

2) I think we need to learn more about the past and the history of these issues in order to better handle these situations today. This will help us become more open and compassionate.

1) I had high hopes that the majority of people these days were more open-minded and we could move pass such negative divisions.

2) In responce it seems that education and discussion (possible mediation) are required to reach understanding and acceptance.

1) Reaction to Ferguson. How has your experience shaped your reaction.
Some have stated that the conservative tone of the political arena, often [illegible] a green light for those who would like to turn back the clock or hand of time. In other words go back to the way that things were when white supremacy dictated weilding power against black & people of color in an instant. Whether this is true or not, the recent murder of several black men, indicates that for some, black lives do not matter, and we must take a stance to say that they do.

How should we respond to these events
This class is an example of how we can respond through the curriculum.

1) I have been shocked and kind of terrified by the recent events. It is sad that this kind of stuff has been happening and so frequently.

2) I think the best way to combat this is to educate everyone so people understand what is going on.

1) I’m so sorry to any person that has been negatively affected by Ferguson’s events. No family should lose their children to violence and hatred. #blacklivesmatter #alllivesmatter

2) More discussions like this should occur in educational settings and other communities.

1) Reaction: My reaction has been to research. To get my hands on as much factual information for when I talk to people about these events. My reaction has also been to keep the conversation going, to try and help people understand and educate them on the truth.
How has your experience shaped your reaction: My experience has really pushed myself to research and further educating myself on like topics.

2) How should we respond?
People should respond with empathy & support for the families who have experienced loss. They should make an attempt to expelle racism and act on education and awareness in injustice.

1) Reaction to events. Experience shape reaction
Sad that someone had to die, over something that could be considered miscommunication or a misunderstanding. At the end of the day, someone was killed, a family member lost and I think that should be kept in mind.

2) Respond to these events?
Individuals should be held responsible/accountable for their actions. Emotions should be kept in check so violence doesn’t break out. Possible laws/regulations could be established to make people feel safe and protected in the communities in which they live.

1) My initial reaction with these events has been disgust. How can we, as educated Americans, who claim to preach freedom & peace, allow our brothers & sisters to be essentially murdered with no legitimate cause? I have not personally experience racism (towards one) but I have witnessed it, and unfortunately I think a lot of Americans are inherently racist, and not outwardly. I am following these events closely, and will continue to be.

2) How should we respond?
Unfortunately, I feel rather helpless in the whole situation. I am not in a position of power to start a march/movement, but I am outraged nonetheless. I feel that the most important thing we can do is not let the movement die. Remind our friends that these events are not acceptable. Keep ourselves aware, ignorance cannot be tolerated.

Shock and confusion. There is a lot of violence occuring. My experience is we are all human and everyone is important.

We should ALL treat each other with respect. We should all come together rather than feel anger and hatred.

The events that have happened are terrible. I hear people trying to justify these events and it makes me cringe every time. These were human lives and that is what’s important!

We need to respond by acknowledging our own biases and learning more about diversity.

1) The Ferguson and Garner events have been extremely tragic, and I feel nothing but empathy and anger. I have been to several Black Lives Matter protests in response. My experience with protests in the past have shaped my response because I have seen the effect protests can have on making change.

2) Educate yourself. Educate others. Don’t take this lying down. We can make a change. #StayWoke #BlackLivesMatter

1) I was disturbed by the lack of empathy by the police and that they are not willing to do the right thing to find peace and justice for the victims.

2) There should be justice for the lives lost and the police officers responsible should be punished accordingly.

Upsetting due to the fact that there is so much oppression and hate in our country.

Talking and understanding what events happened.

Reaction to events: completely shocked that police officers have no problem killing all of these unarmed black men and the fact that they get away with it with no punishment.

How should we respond: send a message by punishing these police officers.

1) My reaction to these events is that I’m startled at the callousness of some responses and lack of empathy. It is hard to see something like this objectively with all the media and reports but it brings out a lot of good and bad in people.

2) I believe we need to educate more, not be afraid of the subject but open a discussion about where society truly is and where we want and should be.

1) Reaction/experience shape: I have a mixed reaction because I believe all lives matter not just certain races or groups. I was raised in a diverse area with many different races and cultures which has helped shape how I feel.

2) What can we do?: I think people need to be given all equal treatment and opportunities from the get-go. Children need to be exposed to many differences and told that everyone matters even if they are different than you.

1) I believe in the right to self defense and I believe the men and women who dedicate their lives to keeping the general populous safe should be celebrated. With that said, as a social work major, I know police brutality exists and until our culture evolves to a point where race is no longer a character trait rather than a physical trait, it will continue to happen.

2) The world shouldn’t have to deal with these situations.

Saddness and realization that racism continues to exist and the people who are supposed to protect us are using their power wrongly.

Become aware and try and fight for social justice in a non-violent manner.

1) What is your reaction? 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.

2) How should we respond? #ALL LIVES MATTER! end of story

1) I can’t believe it happen. I thought racism was finaly being controlled but I guess I was wrong. Lives were taken with no REAL reason behind it and that is not ok.

2) STAND UP! This can’t continue, black lives matter!!!

My reaction has been one of sadness. Personally, I am surrounded by loving people and a safe place to call home. It is devastating to see so much hate and injustice towards other human beings because of their skin.

Stay loud and never forget.

Reaction: Disgust in human nature. I have become aware oppression is real and evident. I never realized how privilaged I was.

We must act now. Speak up, and all come together for the justice human beings deserve.

Shocked by how it was handled. My experience says that the procedures created should have been used.

Challenge what is depicted in the media and think critically about how these people are betrayed and consider if the responses were justified.

The events unfolding in our world today is outrageous and uncalled for. The world needs to take a step back and look at what we are doing to society.

We should respond by continuously talking about it all. We can never have a topic like this seen as taboo or ignored.

It blows my mind that people place blame on unarmed victims. Their skin color has essentially become the weapon to some officers. I was never taught to think about someone differently based on skin color. The personality is what matters.

I believe people need to understand & check their privelege. People need realize the racism in everyday media and speak out. All lives matter.

1) I’m absolutely horrified by all of this. The color of someone’s skin doesn’t make them any less of a person. We all are important & we all matter. Everyone makes mistakes and has done things they regret, so until everyone is perfect, we should not use those events to judge people.

2) Now is the time to start working for a change. Educate people to stand together to make a difference. #BlackLivesMatter

How could this happen?

We should respond with getting the attention of the people in power to say that this is unacceptable in today’s society.

The fact that these things are happening to people who do not deserve this kind of treatment is disappointing and shameful.

We should respond by not singling out African Americans, but by saying ALL lives matter – not just black lives.

Ferguson and Gardner case are unique and have more than the video clips.

Consider creation, perpetuation and stereotypes against African Americans.

I am mortified & sad about these Ferguson/ Garner events. Growing up mostly white places in the most ass-backwards community in PA, but with fairly progressive parents. I always knew racism/stereotypes both existed & were wrong. But this brought my awareness to a new level.

Get educated. Stand up.

1) I don’t like the hashtag. #alllivesmatter

2) I’ve been to other countries where racism is very prominant. Forget the race look at what is under the skin. #knowyourheart #dr.suess #peoplearepeoplenomatterthecolor

1) What has your response/reaction to Ferguson/Gardner events and how have your experiences shaped your reaction? There will never be a way to fully understand both sides of the story and everybody has a different point of view. Thus, I cannot necessarily have a definite opinion because I don’t know all of the details?

2) How should we respond to these events? Even though it was an African American man that was shot by a white man, they should just be seen as two people. Defining them by color is just furthering the issue. Thus, this event should not just be seen as a [illegible] of racism but that there is something wrong with the world that just shooting someday is even a thought!

What was your reaction to the events & how has your experience shaped your reaction?
- When it comes to the Ferguson shooting I’m not sure what to think due to being told different stories of the event. I am upset that a life was lost but I had no strong reaction. As for the Garner & Rice events I am appalled. I was sick to my stomach at how Garner was treated & that the police shot first before asking questions with Rice.

How should we respond to the events?
- We shouldn’t have to respond because these events shouldn’t have happened. I believe something should be done.

I have been appalled by the Ferguson case among many others; the media has tried to staunch protests by portraying the events as justified.

But through the teach-in sessions I now have the stats and resources to fully support protest. More dialogue is needed to bring activism back into the campus body.

1) Honestly, it is actually very frightening. It’s almost as if the people that are here to protest us are actually killing us off. I understand there is fear, especially being a police officer. However, these riots are just outrageous and not justifies in any way. I also understand the idea that all lives matter but our black youth are being murdered, and nothing is being done. It’s almost as if black lives don’t matter in the eyes of some.

2) I personally believe we need to fight these injustices with peaceful protests, as Dr. King would have done. These riots are understandable to an extent, but we need to show them we are better than violence.

After what happened at Ferguson, I was shocked. I think we don’t tackle the problem the right. I believe that the solution has to come from the inside. The white community listen and only listen to white people, as well as the black community listen only to black people. If a white policeman shoot a black man, white people will suffer in the long term because black people will fire them back. On the other hand, if a black man kills a white policeman, the black community will suffer in the long term. That is why I say that the solution has to come from the inside.

1) I must admit when the Ferguson events first occur I was taken aback by the extreme reactions. That’s not to say I felt these events were justifies but rather, there were so many details, so many assumptions and conclusions made that I felt it difficult to access the hard facts. Thus, I didn’t feel comfortable forming an opinion. I recognize our country is very flawed. That there are many problems in our social justice systems and changes need to be made.

2) As I stated before we need to make changes to our system. Responses must be peaceful, violence is not the answer.

1) I felt a lot of sadness that these types of things are still happening. I’ve also felt a great deal of anger at the Grand Jury verdict. I feel that society feels to dettachted from the violence and that we need to realise that just because something happens far away doesn’t mean its not happening. I feel like the public needs to demand a different thing than the Grand Jury because police and Grand Jurys work together so it would be unlikely for a Grand Jury to not throw out the case.

1) These events have been controversial to say the least. But my personal reaction is that life does not matter, and no one should have their life taken if not justified.

2) We should establish trust with each other, because without trust there is fear and fear is the root of events like these.

1) It is horrible how America hasn’t improved by much. We have an African-American President yet we are still being killed.

2) As a people we should work together to change these situations.

1) I’m incredibly saddened about the events that have occurred throughout the country which show injustice towards black people. However, I believe there needs to be a change in the way people on both sides of the argument react.

2) To deal with the problem, the violence needs to end. End oppression, but also end violent resistance and retaliation.

1) What has been your reaction to the Ferguson/Garner events and how has your experience shaped your reaction?
My reaction is that US (black and white) need to do better. We aren’t one and never have been but why can’t we start now.

How should we respond?
We should stand ground and try to work things out between one another.

1) These events have really opened my eyes to how prevalent the racial divide still is in the United States and have shown that something must be done about it.

2) I think that there needs to be a peaceful compromise reached in which all voices are heard and taken into account. Black lives matter, and no life should matter more than another life.

1) I have felt somewhat conflicted. I think that the racism and violence is a huge issue. At the same time I think plenty of police officers do not deserve the negative reputation. The police officers who attacked these unarmed people should be held accountable but other officers should be respected.

2) I think there should be justice for the families. People should be held accountable for their actions.

1) I was very disturbed as to what happened. I believe that the news reports left out some important information and skewed some information falsely and do not think that was right. Everyone should be treated equally and all act in love. God created us all equally and shows us all the same love, why can’t we so the same and speak the whole truth.

2) We should respond peacefully and in a way that is pleasing to God.

1) The Ferguson/Garner events to me seem to show now society can get out of control and go to extremes to express their opinions.

2) We need to come to middle grounds and try to work towards equality in America because it clearly doesn’t exist.

1) Do not know how to react.

2) Not through violence, but through prayer & reinforcing of police academy training.

1) Why? What made this happen? I can no longer trust the police as a Black American male. It’s scary.

2) Body cams.

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.

1) I did not know how to react, I could not react.

2) Through prayer and police force academy training, not violence.

1) I think it was good that a discussion about race was sparked in the US, unfortunately at the cost of lives.

2) I think I have less emotion invested because I haven’t been victim to racism or any type of stereotype.

3) Have more discussion, less violence, as in not killing police officers. It may be hard to talk about sensitive topics but it is necessary.

It’s been interesting to follow it in the news. I think it’s a sad story, but I think people are mad and looking for someone to blame. There has been a lot of anger and emotion that are making one small event represent something much bigger.

It hasn’t really

We should learn to try and make fair unbiased judgements based on truth.

1) The incident that occured in Ferguson has been both shocking and interesting. Looking at the results of the issue, I wonder if the results were due to race. I think there will always be someone not happy in this world, and there will always be racism.

2) I am not a very updated person, so it hasn’t really impacted me by much.

3) We should try to get a for legal system.

1) I believe this situation is all about miscommunication between Blacks and Whites. I am not surprised by this at all because this has been going on for hundreds of years and nothing is being done to close the gap. For situations like this to end Blacks and Whites will need more interaction in the future.

1) Many peacful protests have turned violent after Ferguson trial. Black public figures say they [illegible] nothing of violence. Police are entrusted to make descions based on the currrent individual incident. Many protests are uninformed of what they are protesting for when confronted or ask. #Alllivesmatter. Peaceful protest is fine dont turn violent.

What has been your reaction to Ferguson?
I am slightly perplexed at the court findings, but [illegible] mine so at the chaotic riot-infused public response to it.

How has it been shaped by your experience?
It has had very little bearing on my life.

How should we respond to Ferguson events?
Intelligent, data-driven discussion. Reexamine police protocol and race-effects if decision making.

1) Different for each case. Agree to disagree on different events.

2) Stop talking about race if we want it to be eliminated. It’s never going to end if it is continuously brought up.

1) My reaction to the Ferguson events is that I think it is absurd. Why should people of a different race be treated any differently than whites? The answer is, they shouldn’t. Everyone is the same inside and no two skin colors should be called out. That will only accumulate more violence/hatred amongst those in society.

1) Interest. Very curious how everyone got so up in arms about these events that they destroyed (very literally) their own town.

2) Allow everyone to think what they’d like; respect opportunities for others to express their opinions and don’t preach yours on others.

My reaction is that these events should not be happening there should be more control, for lack of a better word, to make sure thought and time is taken before taking a human life away from someone, their family, and the society. These events are upsetting to see that even the movements for peace, they still happen.

1) I think that one needs to look at the whole case before one can make decisions on it. One needs to use all facts not pull any information out of [illegible].

2) We the people should use all facts before making judgements or allocations as well as not taking things out of context.

Organizing the large scale movement that needs to happen will not be easy but will be necessary.

How could we allow this to be going on for so long. How is it ever justified. My heart aches as I feel responsible as I must taje the stance for all human beings.

Respond now, as one. Plan than act.

Where is the value of life? Why are protocals not followed, just because of a person’s race. They should not have to feel inferior or scared to walk in the streets of a FREE nation.

Educate!!

I think I didn’t realize how serious of a matter the whole institution is. I recently returned home from abroad to find that our country is experiencing some dilemmas. I do solely believe that #alllivesmatter and that we still stand as united people. I still have so many questions that are hard to answer, but honestly can never be answered.

1) What is your reaction?
Of course, these events are terrible but the focus on the racial influence behind these crimes might be too strong. What about other crime by other races or genders. More needs to be considered.

2) How should we, as people, respond to the Ferguson events?
We should respond with open dialogue and peaceful intiatives to unify our country and our world as a whole. Black lives are not the only lives that matter.

1) Many people say that these unfortunate deaths occurred for no reason, but whether it was evidentially or racially based there were reasons behind these deaths. And as hard as it is to accept what happened, we may never know what was going on inside these officers’ minds. Whatever the victims did, I don’t believe death was an appropriate consequence. I don’t think these deaths were justified, and it’s disheartening to know these incidents occur more often than most people, even I, realize.

2) If we don’t have personal experience with racial inequality, we cannot say we truly understand what minorities go through. We can have empathy and seek to understand, but never say we fully understand another person’s life experiences. I think we should respond by addressing stereotypes within the classrooms. We should seek level ground and an accepting environment in our schools. Children are our country’s future, so we should break misconceptions in school settings first. Also, it is important to remember the families of all the victims and make sure they have the support they need in such a difficult time.

1) I intially had no idea what the Ferguson case was about until the verdict came out. By that time, I really didn’t know anything about it.

2) I believe that the killing of black americans for small reasons should end. It is not fair and I strongly believe in #BlackLivesMatter. Ferguson and the whole thing makes me sick.

1) 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.”

2) We should be devastated at the loss of any human life, and be conscious of the [illegible], or look there of, that the attribute to them.

1) I feel the reaction from the Ferguson case focuses on race when it should focus on power. If it was a white boy from some slum no one would have noticed. I think race is the problem because we make it the problem. There are Africans rapping and killing other Africans in Uganda and Kenya, but nothing is done because that is ‘them’ and ‘we’ are here. If we look globally maybe we can fix our version of nationally.

2) See the end on #1.

Ques. ---> Society should try to educate upcoming generations in a color-blind manner as opposed to one of affirmative action & distinctions.

Reaction ---> I was most affected by the article about the 12-year old being shot. The problem of race is still a big issue.

1) My reaction is that a debate/discussion as to the truthfullness, responsibility, and generally cultural image of police must take place. The idea of a police officer always being honest and truthful is sometimes wrong, however when this leads to black deaths we often side with law enforcement and take the position of “The officer is always right.”

2) A discussion should take place across the nation, however we must be careful to ensure that political correctness does not warp and distort arguments and prevent discussions from taking place.

1) I think it is appaling. Innocent people were killed unjustly and I don’t think that is ever okay.

2) One thing that could lessen the likelihood of these events is requiring police to wear cameras, and make stricter punishments for officers involved in these kinds of incidents. From a larger scope, we need to realize that race is still an issue in this country.

1) I have heard many different viewpoints about these recent cases. I honestly don’t know how to feel because I am conflicted about the facts. There are many factors that go into situations like this and there are many cases, including about white victims, that go unreported or ill-publicized.

2) I believe we should work better to prevent these situations such as more training for officers and more racial equality trainings/seminars in schools and businesses.

1) My reaction is that it is a tragedy. A young life was lost, but violence towards the officer or with anyone else isn’t the answer and certainly not going to bring them back.

2) I don’t think us as people can do anything. Everyone just needs to be more cautious. Attacking innocent officers or people is not going to help anyone.

1) My reaction to this event has been that we as people should always be thinking of this. I don’t want to teach my students about these problems when there is a problem.

2) We should respond to the Ferguson/Garner events by being honest with everyone and ourselves about our feelings. This will help us figure out how to move forward as a nation.

1) It’s sad to see things like this happen in our world. I feel like the media really spot lights these events in order to “stir people up” about it. I don’t have much experience with these types of situations and I only know a little about these events, so I can understand why a lot of people would make assumptions.

2) As educators, the first step we should take is to educate ourselves about these events and be able to explain them to our students “on their level.”

1) My reaction is that we need to change the way people stereotype others so stereotypes can be eliminated. After the teach-in, I realized how much “white privilege” there is in the world, and how that needs to change so all groups can be equal.

2) We should respond by questioning our assumptions about people and seeking to find the truth and facts about people. As a future teacher, I believe it is important to inform myself more about different cultures and beliefs so I can teach my students better while embracing their differences.

1) My reaction is that I feel that people should be more aware of these things all the time not just when bad things happen.

2) We should work for equality across the board & for all generations.

1) My reaction has been pure shock and sadness. It saddens me that some people make judgements in serious situations where the other person’s life is at risk. I don’t see why anyone would take this issue lightly. From a teachers perspective I think its extremely important to make sure my students know that racism and prejudice is never acceptable and that everyone is human and should be treated as such.

2) I think we should react strongly because just ignoring something that is wrong is a terrible way to try to change something. I think it’s good to inform others. I think the teach-in days were a great way to allow others to consider how they really feel about the issue and what can be done.

1) I haven’t really been impacted by these events.

2) We should allow the court system to deal with each case, and what the court decides should stand.

1) I think it draws attention to the fact that the world is lacking an understanding of other cultures and people.

2) We need to expose people as a whole to new cultures, things and people to broaden horizons and teach open-mindedness and acceptance.

1) I am shocked that the two officers were not indicted. My experience shaped my reaction due to the fact that what the police officers did to the 2 innocent black men, in my opinion was wrong.

2) I don’t think rioting and protesting answer any problem. It is okay to be upset but instead of rioting/protesting, we should handle the situation more peacefully.

1) I am deeply sorry that someone [illegible] so young should have died, especially at the hands of a police officer. I didn’t [illegible] but I can only [illegible].......................

2) Appeal strongly & repeatedly to our local & state law makers to find ways to hold police officers accountable for their actions.

1)

* I gained an understanding of different stereotypes
* I was pushed to have an awareness of stereotypes and why society constructs these
* The discussion made me realize that our society constructs groups that block diversity awareness

2)

* Listen to others from different diversity groups
* Work on peace ---> challenge issues
* Become more empathetic

1) The Ferguson/Garner events have been sad and overwhelming to me. As a future educator, I am saddened that this is frowned upon to teach diverse populations about the issues of violence related to racism.

2) We should have the ability to teach the international issues that we are facing while also presenting the democracy that we do have.

What is your reaction to the Ferguson events?
I think the events in Ferguson were horrific but demonstrate the necessity to address racial inequality in America. The campus teach in helped me examine these events from different perspectives. As a result, I have come to the realization that white privilege and racism are very real and still exist in American society.

How should we respond?
I think that we should respond by discussing racial inequality, because claiming that America is a “post racism” society will only fuel the fire of protesters. I think examining racial inequality in a variety of social structures and situations can help us come up with small ways to solve this giant problem.

1)

* Sad & heartbroken
* The teach-in helped me realize how much impact this actually has on my classroom.

2)

* Recognize that ALL lives matter
* Raise awareness

1) This has been a challenging time for our country. The cases are ambiguous and there is quite a reaction from the people. I believe this has gotten out of control; we are acting irrationally & based off emotions. It saddens me for we are taking steps back. I feel opression is among us. Ferguson case is difficult to say who is right or wrong. I believe it was a fatal, sad, accident. My experiences of being a minor makes me sympathize the black community; however I will not let that cloud my judgement. It was just a bad accident. All life matters; isn’t that obvious? But I guess the hate is too strong for us to realize....

1) My reaction was that America seems very intolerant to differences and are trying to find blame for events. I have always felt I’ve lived an understanding and accepting life. I never think of factors such as race/gender/ethnicity or other differences when events such as Ferguson occur. Therefore, I dislike hearing about these events driven by ‘hate’ of people who are different.

2) We should use these as teaching moments and use it as examples to change the minds of the future generations.

1) My reaction to Ferguson/Garner has been a scared and sad one. I can’t imagine how our society will be in ten years down the road. My experience in the teach-in has made me think about my issues as a professional and a teacher. Which hasn’t changed my initial, but allowed me to see how I can make a difference.

2) We should respond that all lives matter. Not just black or white. Everyone matters. No matter what race, gender, or religon you all matter. That is the most important thing.

1) I believe the events in Ferguson to be upsetting, but not completely surprising as I feel that these is still a lot of racism.

2) I attended a high school where I was a minority (being white), so I am used to their cultures, and see the racism that occurs elsewhere.

3) We should continue to raise awareness.

2) We, as a primarily white school, should focus some time and effort explaining white privilege and the existence of power imbalances due to systematic racism.

1) While what has happened is tragic and wrong, the reaction of the public is startling to me. Not because of the protesting (which we have the right to), but because of the anti-police mentality. People don’t realize that not all cops are bad and every proffession has “bad eggs”.

2) We should hold cops accountable for their actions, educate them on racism, stereotypes, and best practices, and have stricter punishments who break the rules and tarnish the profession.

1) I realized I have strong opinions on both sides of the spectrum, as I am able to see both sides. My main reaction is that people protest violently without an understanding of what actually may have happened – from other side. Mob mentality has an even bigger hold where education is lacking.

2) Educate. Distribute a comprehensive summary of the facts of these cases for people who have no idea what happened. Put the facts on the back of the restroom stall doors, etc. Inform us so that we have the tools to form the opinions for ourselves.

2) I think that such events should be taken seriously and they need to be discussed. All lives matter.

2) I think we need to continue to discuss the police force in this country & the respect for both citizen & officer & ways to protect both. I don’t think it’s necessary to calm nerves to those who want to make themselves a victim. [Illegible]

1) I disagree with what happened and I think people should empathize and not fall into going along with stereotypes.

2) I think that before reacting, we should empathize with others and put ourselves in their shoes.

I think people have taken the event out of context. The majority of people who talk about the events don’t have all the details of what actually happened. I also believe that because race was an issue that’s why there was such attention, but I wonder what would have happened if it was a black police officer. I don’t support police brutality, but they have 10-15 seconds to decide how to act and they do have the right to defend themselves.

1) My first reaction was that even if there is the expression liberty, you must obey to the police because they are here to protect you. But, I think that if the police abuse its authority you have to protest.

2) We should [illegible] more and prevent media bias from sharing ones opinions.

2) Discussion is the best tool.

2) Put more attention on training police officers

2) People need to be educated in common sense on the officers and the community when interacting.

Its a [illegible]. There needs to be more [illegible] and coroption.

Let the athorties do there job. We need to back and step off and let athorties take care of it.

2) Respond with a way to cause a positive impact.

1) I don’t know

2) We should allow the justice system to do its job and keep the issue out of the media as much as possible.

1) More interested now after hearing about media shaping stories.

2) Doing nothing – let it blow over to discourage protesting violently.

2) Promote equality in all aspects and provide equal opportunities in everything for everyone.

2) I think we should respond in a non-violent way, and leave out the factors of race, sex, and class. These three happened and if we would see past that, then it wouldn’t be such a big issue.

2) We should respond as a community, and understand everyones beliefs.

I don’t really know what to do. I think it would be beneficial to stop covering it so heavily in the media because that is only going to encourage the protestors.

1) I have been shocked about the injustices in our country, since I haven’t experience injustice.

2) We should support non-violent protests.

1) My experience with the situation in Ferguson has been somewhat limited. I have seen many stories about it on the news and have discussed it with my parents and a few friends. My reaction is still being processed. I hear many different thoughts, some very hateful while others are confused.

2) I think we should respond in the most educated way possible. Always make sure to have all the facts before you react!

1) It has affected the way I look at things & made me realize people are treated very unfair & different. I was upset by this concept.

2) We should take action & get involved. This shouldn’t happen to those people or anyone. It’s unfair.

1) These events are never good but the media makes it worse.

2) We should learn from these and try to prevent them. Be proactive, not reactive.

1) My reaction has been anger toward the injustice that took place in the Michael Brown case. I think Darren Wilson used excessive punishment and should have been indicted. I will try to channel that anger into supporting positive change.

2) We should continue discussion and encourage understanding of others as well as racial inequality that takes place in America and across the globe.

1) I get angry when hearing about the Ferguson/Garner events and how people are responding. I don’t think many Americans are willing to hear both sides of the story and are quick to blame one person, or group of people instead of looking where both sides might be at fault. My parents raised me to think before I speak and accuse and look at the other side of the story and I apply that knowledge in these situations before forming an opinion.

2) I think as educators we should be open-minded about these events. We should know they happen but look at both sides of the story before coming up with an opinion on the events. We should teach out students the importance of these events and use this as a chance to teach about diversity and different cultures. We should teach our students how to feel about the situations, but instead give them the knowledge about both sides so they can form their own opinion.

2) Prosecute accordingly

#Blacklivesmatter

2) Things need to be done on both sides to bring the people together with the police force so it can be worked out.

1) Astonished by how steriotypical America can be with small racial issues. I would think that there would be change in racism since I was a kid, but some issues never change.

2) We should re-think our standards for sociatal norms on race.

2) Need to get over it all.

1) I am not entirely aware of the details so I cannot fully form an opinion. However, I can say that any discrimination based on race disgusts and disturbs me.

2) I cannot fully participate in a plan of action as a response seeing as I do not know the incidences well, but generally speaking, it is important for everyone to be open to others and kind to all and rule out discrimination in all possible ways.

1) My reaction to what has happened is that these cops are abusing the power that they had recieved & got away with murder. My experience has shaped this because I have been fasely accused of illegal activity & forced to undergo procedures.

2) Both should be in prision.

1) My reaction to the Ferguson/Garner events was that I was not sure what to believe. From listening to the news, you hear different perspectives about the “facts.” I have enjoyed getting to learn more from the teach-ins and connect the events to different subject areas. My experiences have shaped my reactions because I do not live in an area where the events occured or where there were any protests.

2) We should respond to the Ferguson/Garner events by recognizing that racism still occurs in our world. We need to continue to fight racism and work towards accepting everyone’s unique backgrounds. People should protest in a peaceful manner rather than with violence. As a future teacher, I need to respond by making sure to treat all students fairly and fight achievement gaps.

1) I think that it is a very unfortunate event and I hope that eventually the riots will cease, I don’t know a whole lot about the event and have the discussion made me see the point of view of both sides.

2) I think that it is important to be informed and to be aware of how we may profile people and work to change that.

1) Anger and disbelief at the way people treat each other. The ignorance that prevails through society that combats violence with violence is disturbing.

2) People need educated and a better understanding of how to deal with these issues.

1) I haven’t had any real reaction to the case, because I tend not to pay attention to the news.

2) The fact that I am privileged and white probably made me a little indifferent about the central conflict with the case. However, it is tough to gauge how my experience led to my opinion because I simply haven’t paid any attention.

3) Make people more aware. Offer classes on the subject.

I didn’t follow the case very closely.

Response to the events: Understand both perspectives of the case and put yourself in the opposing person’s views.

2) We should find a way to make peace.

2) I believe we should respond by looking at the root of the problems. By understanding the root of the problems, only then can there be any sort of changes in a positive direction.

1) My reaction was that black lives are just as important as white ones. I do not necesarily know how fairly Mike Brown was treated.

2) We should definitely make this issue known.

2) I think that it should be recognized & used as a learning experience.

2) Learn from it, move one, but make the proper decisions & choices when trying to improve.

Different media networks are shaping these tragedies into a global devide. MSNBC has [illegible] the mostly defended the police. They gave a lot more detail all around. I stick to watching CNN and sometimes Fox.

1) I don’t know enough about it but I don’t want to assume that the officer was racist & that is why he shot the man. He was doing his job, but based off this research maybe he was biologically racist. The body however should not have been left.

2) Experience shaped due to growing up in mostly white culture.

3) We should do our best to understand everyone equally, defend the humanitarian rights of all, and do our best to not have racist views.

1) I did not really have much of a reaction. I think what happened is unfortunate, but I think the way people responded was unnecessary.

2) I would not consider myself racist, but I think white/black violence is often blown out of proportion.

3) Inform people.

1) I haven’t been keeping up much with the events, but it was mostly confusion.

2) We should look more into how police officers are trained and armed.

1) I think there are two sides to every story and both have good points but I don’t want to agree with one side too much that the opposite side becomes automatically wrong.

2) I honestly don’t know.

1) My reaction is that colored people are treated unfair in comparison to whites. I can see both perspectives so it doesn’t affect my reaction.

2) Just show unity.

1) My reaction was shaped by the reaction of my parents and the TV station that my dad was watching to get information. I think the loss of life is tragic but I feel I do not have enough info to have strong opinions or reactions myself. The views of people on social media may have been extreme.

2) I do not think that reactions to the events should include more violence, I do not think that solves anything. I wish I had a good answer to how to stop hatred in our world. I think we should respond by understanding that all lives matter and by not letting our emotions get the best of us.

1) I don’t know much about the incidents but know the main facts. I at least understand now how people view police and the victims.

2) Both sides should be given a fair chance for understanding and not try to create greater biases about and person or occupation.

1) It’s opened my eyes to a lot of the controversy that is out there and the different views that are out there. Honestly, I hear both sides and know that a lot of information is often stretched or altered which makes it difficult to form an opinion.

2) I think just knowing that there definitely are racial stereotypes and prejudice that exist and being aware of them is important. Education is key.

ACKNOWLEDGE, that while we each have our own stories and our own perspectives, ALL LIVES MATTER.

I now have a better understanding on how to pursue change.

Spread the word.

1) I don’t know about Garner. Fergusson I have heard more about. I do think cops have the training to shoot not to kill but to injure. This training should have been used when the officer feels dangered, instead of shooting him in the chest. As far as how big a role race played I feel that the racial card might be overplayed. Whether it was a white or black man, charging the officer he could have reacted the same way.

2) We should all make sure we are informed of both events and both sides of the events. As citizens we have that obligation. Not too sure how we should respond or what we should do with the info once we have it.

1) The events of the Ferguson/Garner have brought to my attention to some racial issues we have in this country. I was suprised to see how much outroar there has been in this country in reaction to these events.

2) We should respond to these events by taking a closer look at issues we have in this country and determine if there are any changes that need to be made.

1) Do not know enough about it to have a strong opinion, but I think it could be handled better.

2) There were too many violent protests and you cannot fight violence with violence.

1) I don’t really know much about the events so I can’t really give an opinion on the matter.

2) I also don’t know since I don’t know much about the situation.

1 & 2) I think they need to be looked into further due to conflicting stories & information, but it’s definitely something to address. I am a person who always needs to know all the facts before making a decision.

What is your reaction to the Ferguson: It’s confusing. I don’t really know how to respond, so sometimes that means no response at all.

What can we do: More oppurtunities for open dialogue with respect to shared and unshared experiences. More oppurtunities for discussions just as the one today.

1) I haven’t kept up with them.

2) We should be unbiased.

1) The events of Ferguson and other reported incidents of white on black violence were the first time it was strongly brought to my attention the reality of racism and police brutality of this country. Beforehand, these things had been such distant concepts to me, but when I became aware, I became angry and disgusted.

2) The most important thing is for those not affected by racism to listen to those who are. So long the problems of discrimination in this country have been swept under the rug, easy to ignore. These problems need to be brought to light if there’s any chance of fixing it.

My reaction has been to recognize my own priviledge. Not only as an American citizen but as a white citizen.

1) My reaction was one of sadness because the brutality with which both the men were treated did not match their crimes. I have many friends who are black males and could not imagine how distraught I would be if they were victimized that way. However, I believe the disgust over these events has led to an anti-cop mentality that is equally sad.

2) We should respond in support of the families of Brown and Gardner, but also promote and support police officers that are handling their duties appropriately.

1) I haven’t experienced much that has been going on personally, but I have a truely shocking reaction to the problems of force, racism, and discretion occuring throughout the Ferguson/Garner events.

2) I don’t know how exactly we should respond, but something needs to be done to bring peace to the situation.

1) Extremely neutral. I can see both sides of the story and nothing seems convincing enough for any to take a side, and the event itself does not seem as important as people make it to be.

2) Calmly and [illegible]

1) My response has been one of sadness. Not only for the lives lost but also for the people who think the answer to violence is more violence. My personal experience with these events has been limited but my reaction is usually to avoid reading or seeing them.

2) I don’t believe Etown as a whole should respond.

1) My experience with little racism in life makes it difficult to understand some of the strong emotions tied in with these events.

2) We should respond to these events with a better and stronger understanding of what topics and ideas surround the events.

1) I believe that this event has caused an uprage in both the black & white community. It’s very conflicting, & no right or wrong answer on who was correct, which causes much controversy. I believe that if someone was suspicious & looking to attack me, my 1st reaction would be to defend myself, not matter what race. There are many stereotypes w/ blacks & whites, however I feel we’re all equal, & even in a scary or intimidating situation, no one should let color be a factor of feelings.

2) We should respond by sticking up for equality like we have been fighting for for decades. Extra mobs & boycotts & fights cause more drama & incidents. America needs to respect another & maturely state their beliefs.

What has your reaction to Ferguson/Garner events & how has your experience shaped your reaction?
As an African American Ferguson/Garner events made me think about the priviledges of the country & who has it. In these two cases these men recieved no justice & that makes me feel that the law is not on my side even if I do right thing.

How should we respond to the Ferguson/Garner events?
I want there to be peace but in light of the culture of protests in this country, peaceful protests is not taken seriously. Sometimes violence will get more attention than peace.

I do not follow news often, I would have to read more reports to formulate an accurate response. Need more info for experience. I think our response should be that of caution.

1) My reaction is it’s very complex. Each event is unique and must be evaluated as such. Making broad assumptions is not the answer and you must delve deeper to understand core problems.

2) We must listen and attempt both sides. Uniform discussion is the answer.

1) Cops lives matter.

2) Protect our law enforcement.

1) I’ve been appolled by how America could use race as an excuse for fighting, which has demonstrated that people have not changed over the past 50 years.

2) Eliminate racism and any type of discrimination.

1) I tend to not get involved in debates or caught up in watching the media because it tends to be propaganda and not portray the whole story. I know police officers personally and I would hope they would uphold the police conduct like my acquaintances.

2) Bring more awareness and portray both sides.

1) I was desturbed that the people were destroying and vandelizing their own city/town. I don’t appreciate how the media is leaving out some of the details pertinate to the case. It means it very one-sided. I grew up in a very diverse environment and do not deal with racism well – I hate it. I do not like that that is happening.

2) Displayed the truth without bias to eliminate the prejudices going around – leaving peace instead of violence and rioting.

1) I was shocked there was no indictment and it made me think about how our police are chosen and trained.

2) It should be an eye opener to change and improve the police force.

I feel as if we should be taking these events as an opportunity to focus on prejudice in our own hometowns, rather than pointing fingers at other areas. Growing up in a city with a high crime/homelessness presence has shown me that before we can try to go & “fix” other areas, we need to work on fostering love & understanding in our own backyards. Violence is not an area specific, race specific problem.

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.

1) I was shocked by the reaction of the cop to a minor.

2) The cop should’ve tried and sentanced to stop the riats and maintain stability in the state.

1) I feel as though the events are obviously tragic but also the media over dramatize all the information and don’t base on the facts.

1) Although Michael Brown was wrong in robbing a conveinance store, I do not think he should have been shot to death. The fact that we are dealing with race issues still, is saddening and frustrating to me. Although I think the officer in Ferguson was wrong, the police officers in NYC did not deserve to die either.

2) Instead of looting and rioting, we need to step back and identify what issues exist and find a way to address these issues.

I only read a little bit about the case, so I do not have an opinion or experiences that would strongly impact my opinion.

I think that the case should be handled the same regardless of race, and that the criminal punishments should be the same as well. I think that society should support the fight for equality so that just punishments are administered.

1) Police force is corrupt.

2) Hire and better train police officers to deal with such situations.

I feel outraged by both the events of Ferguson and Eric Garner. With the death of Mike Brown, it doesn’t matter who’s story is right to me. If Mike Brown was white, he wouldn’t have died. Take the shooting in Colorado for instance. A white man killed 12 people and they took him in alive. Even if Brown did steal, theft is no excuse for the death penalty.

With Garner, there was footage, and everyone could see what happened. I am disgusted that the officer wasn’t indicted.

1) I believe the entire situation is getting so much more attention then needed. These types of things happen and yes they are very unfortunate, but this particular situation does not exactly ‘need’ to be plastered over the news.

1) Both police officers should have been indicted. I believe it shows the racism and racial tensions in America.

1) Don’t know how to react, not enough facts.

2) Through proper and reinforcement of Police Academy training.

I only learned about what happened in Ferguson after the verdict came out, so at that point in time, I found out what happened but still don’t know much about the whole situation.

I am horrified to acknowledge that too many value one kind of life or identity at the expense of another. Having received unconstitutional acceptance of those closest to me, I acknowledge the validity of my own life and that of others.

1) I agree with the outcome of the Ferguson case. The minor was threatening the cops life.

1) I find it blown out of proportion.

1) The cops shot the kid like 6 times, if he really did just want to stop the kid, he should have shot like once or twice.

1) My reaction to the Ferguson/Gardner event is that it makes people aware of the racism we are experiencing in today’s society.

I believe that as citizens, we should not fight violence with more violence because that only causes the spiral of violence, which will be neverending. I have been very upset at the way things have been handled and that has caused my experiences and oppurtunity to dwindle due to the fact that I live in fear of my surroundings.

Voice your opinion, that is fine. But to put physical action into the bunch, that is when it is wrong. We should responds with communication and the topic to be talked about, not run from it and only voice the bad talk. We should act more like mature adults and listen to all.

1) I was surprised by the recent events, but I was more surprised that these events were just coming to light now. I believe that police violence is something that has been happening for years with all types of races, genders, and sexual orientations. Police have always forced harsh judgements in regards to what actions they decide to take but I feel as if I am in no position to judge. I am not an officer and I have no idea how hard their job must be. They have to make split second actions and I just feel that white cops are recieving judgements. We as a society are really not able to understand their jobs. I feel that with so many of my family members/friends being on the police force I’m torn between both sides of the members of society and the police force.

1) I think the situation is media driven and blown out of proportion.

2) It should have been recognized and reported as news, however; I do not think it should have been recognized and broadcasted as a race issue (ex: white cop shoots black man)

1) Chaotic riots with black civilians running wild.

2) We should have police officers take more responsibility for their actions.

1) Overreaction created by racebaiters such as Al Sharpton. This should not event be a problem of white vs black violence. It anyone, regardless of color, was to attempt to take an officer’s gun, they are well in line to get shot.

2) Support the police as they are wrongly accused.

1) My reaction to the events have been slightly mixed. On one side, I believe that the crimes/suspicions somewhat caused these things to happen, but on the other side, I believe that, especially in the Gardner case, the policeman was using excessive force. I haven’t completely “picked a side” necessarily. I do however, still think racism is a problem in society.

2) I think it is good that these events are sparking conversation, and I think we need to take these events and really start identifying the problems in our culture so we can learn & grow from these events.

I’ve had very little reaction to the events, other than sadness and regret that events like this (violent) are still happening in 21st century USA.

I live a white, middle-class sheltered life that mostly revolves around science and the coverage of the Ferguson situation.

1) My reaction is mixed. I feel disgusted that racism still exists in our country. But I also think that drawing this much attention to these situations only deepens the divide in individuals viewpoints.

2) There’s no right answer on what’s the proper way to respond. I think for the sake’s of the families, we should try to reach a level of peace or at least understanding in respect to their loved ones lost.

1) I believe that the law supports Officer Wilson in Ferguson.

Reaction, how has experience shaped reaction? I think the media portrays things in a false way sometimes, in order to get people to take a side. I don’t think it should ever matter the race of the shooter or the victim. If a cop it being threatened and his only choice is to shoot, it doesn’t matter the race. There are shootings in my town every day, and race is never even brought up in media.

How should we respond? Ways to help prove what happened, such as cameras on cops. Arguing about race & rioting is not helpful in any way.

I don’t know much about the Garner events in New York so I can’t give my opinion on that issue. As far as the Ferguson issue goes, I think the police officer was acting in self-defense when he shot the man.

I think we should handle the situation with more of an open mind trying to understand both sides and not assuming things.

1) My reaction to these events was disgust and horror. I believe that there had to be racial discrimination going on for this event to occur. Or maybe the people inflicting the harm had immense hatred and anger for all, manifesting itself in the form of physical violence.

2) There is a lot of weight in this answer. It was a tragic event. Recognise this, mourn for the loss, and learn/grow from it.

I am really happy that Etown is letting us talk about these issues. We can’t ignore this. We need to be talking about this. And not just 1 week; we need to talk about this all semester long.

1) My reaction has been mixed with the current events. I feel race may play a role in some of the events but I also believe the power police have has a overwhelmingly higher influence on these events. I think media also contributes to the way things are perceived because I believe police brutality goes for all races, but certain incidents are shown on media more than others.

Coming from a family of minorities, I can sympathize with people who feel race is a huge issue, however, that being said, I try not to be biased towards one possible explanation for what has been happening. I like to be open about many of the issues involved.

My reaction is basically “Jesus, not this again.”

My experience hasn’t changed my reaction but it does put it into a more variable-rich perspective.

First, we should determine safer alternatives for citizens that do not attract and create outcry.

My reaction to Ferguson is the cop had to make an immediate decision even though it might not have been the right one.

Just because someone is black doesn not make them less intelligence. There are other factors that play into it.

We should respond to Ferguson as a learning experience.

My reaction Ferguson was the realization that prejudice in America is still rampet at a dangerous level. It has made me more aware of black culture and made more cognisent of my own preiviledge.

1) I’ve been disappointed by the sensationalization of important topics such as this by the media.

1) Wanting to learn more because I haven’t been exposed to such things before.

2) I think we should teach about why people feel the way they do.

1) It’s saddening to see how quickly our “United” country can become so divided.

1) I think it is racist; I’ve seen racism happen in different locations, studies African American Religion Studies.

1) My reaction to the Ferguson case: I was outraged because I personally believe all lives matter.

1) As far as Ferguson goes, there are two sides to every story. We have no idea if Officer Williams did anything wrong the day he killed Mike Brown. The media puts an impression of an event in our heads that we should filter of biases. The world is always going to be a crazy place and we have to hold police officers accountable so that they don’t get drunk of power.

In any of these situations were different races are involved can be difficult to react to. Unfortunately, races have so many steriotypes, and this is another example. Hopefully, one day, racism will not be as evident in our society.

I do not have an in-depth understanding of the events, however, in response to Ferguson, my response has been to think that as a society we should be past such discrimination issues.

I feel that we should respond with a professional attitude and approach them in the most fair way we can. I do not, however, think we should place a large amount of media attention on the events because many opinions come into play and can increase the levels of violence.

1) It’s interesting to hear others opinions on these events while in a controlled area rather than just through social media.

1) My reaction to the Ferguson/Garner events with interest and intrigue. To me the Ferguson event had ambiguity and it was hard for me to empathize with indisputable evidence of what has happened. Both events taught me to look more into the issues at hand rather than listen to the endless news cycle.

2) We as a society should respond the events with worry because it shows how little society has changed the since the civil rights era.

Reaction to the events? How has your experience shaped your reaction? I think that it is unfortunate that so many shootings by cops are resulting in deaths but I think people should react to the facts, not to a narrative skewed by the media.

How do we respond? Be informed; vote for our government officials.

Reaction to Ferguson? I read a lot about Ferguson and concluded that no one knows exactly what happened, but evidence showed that Michael Brown was high and just committed a crime. He had a fair trial.

How should we respond? Police training & evaluations to avoid such segregation in police community.

My reaction to Ferguson? WTF. Why is this such a huge part of the media? There is no need for black/white issues. There is no need for white police officers to shoot so many times.

How should we respond? It doesn’t matter that he was black, what matters is that NO ONE should be shot and killed. I feel tazers should be the first option.

1) What people know and understand about racism and race.

The recent events in Ferguson make me sad. I can’t believe we live in a world of hatred and prejudice that still has to learn how to love. I hope things change so my children are raised in a different world.

1) Personally, I am a huge promoter of peace. So, I thought the situation was unfair, but also didn’t agree with their violence to speak up for themselves.

It’s a good topic to talk about, since its a hot topic.

I grew up in a family who was very accepting of everyone. My parents always taught me values of accepting everyone no matter their race, sexuality, etc. Therefore, my reaction was shock. I was very surprised there are still so many racial discriminations because I am not exposed to them in my environment. It makes me upset that people are discriminated by race, everyone should be treated equally.

1) Whilst violence is detestible, in this instance it may be wholly unnecessary. Nothing is louder than a [illegible] a large [illegible].

2) With aid, with protest, with solidarity to prayer, with [illegible], and with an understanding of the issue.

1) I think that the people all involved were treated very poorly.

2) We need to spread the word and get people to realize brutality, violence and racism is not the answer.

\*the following are written reflections from Dr. Jeff Bach’s lecture, “From Philadelphia to Ferguson: Father Divine's Peace Mission as a Communal Experiment on Race”

(1) A black man preaching that race doesn’t matter is the complete opposite of what a lot of people would think is normal. But it worked for Father Divine. Maybe it is time to tart talking about us not as racial opposites, but as we are all human beings. Peach will come someday.

(1) Society’s view on race is highly relient on our intrinsic values and understanding of religion. Much of today’s conflict over race is about the motivations behind actions of those of different racial backgrounds. Looking forward, I would hope that we would learn to recognize the equal value of all human life and not segregate what we call “racially motivated topics.”

(1) Race in America has been an important classification to people which has kept equality from happening fully.

(2) Most of the people in America, especially younger people, are recognizing that race does not a define a person. This message must be accepted by everyone before there will ever be a full sense of equality.