

American Studies

U.S. History

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Equality and Unity in Today's Society

As an American, we all have guaranteed rights and values that each one of us hold. These rights and values can not be taken away from us. For one example, unity was determined in the constitution saying these rights belong to every citizen. This core American value was also determined in the Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776). Equality originally came from the Declaration of Independence, it states "all men are created equal." On August 18, 1920, the congress passed the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. This led to more equality amongst everyone in the United States. Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963 stated "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," this was nearly 60 years ago and still has not yet happened. America is not living up to these core values based on what is currently going on in the world.

One major American value that America is not living up to is equality.

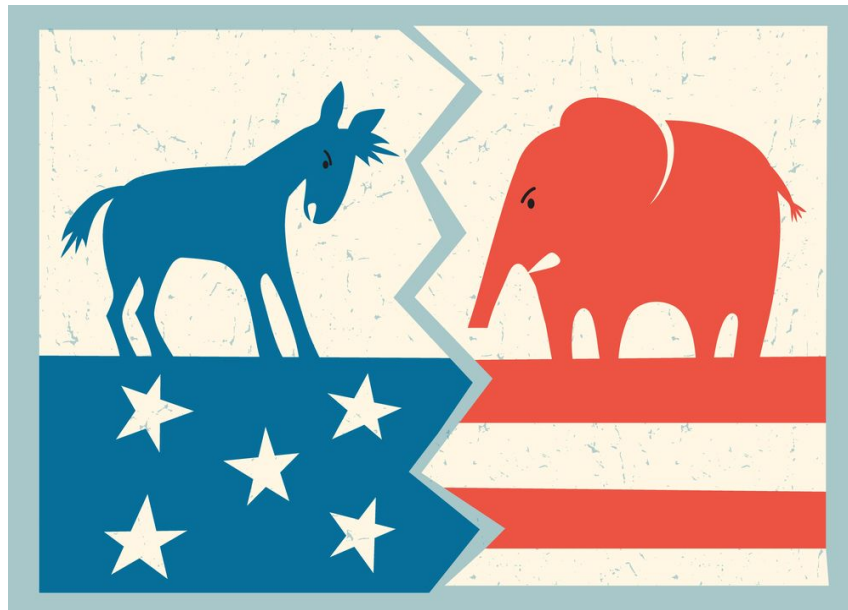
Equality in today's world is very diversified. It is greatly disputed and pressured. In 1963, TIME stated after Martin Luther King Jr. famous speech, "For every tortuous inch gained, there are miles of progress left to be covered." and this statement completely represents how far we have come with equal rights and still how far we still have to go. To show an example of the inequality shown today in the US, "The difference in median household incomes between white and black Americans has grown from about \$23,800 in 1970 to roughly \$33,000 in 2018," this is

an astounding number showing the inequality of income (Schaeffer). There are still police shootings based on color or skin and racism towards one another. People of this country are still waiting on the day for this to ultimately change. There have been some strides forwards but also some steps backwards. In the current time frame, there are many activists and protestors fighting for change through the Black Lives Matter movement. Racism has gone on for a long time in this country and has not been changed. Racism is holding back equality from people, it is holding back their own human rights. Once this problem is recognized by everyone and most of all changed, people will stop seeing each other as different and will finally treat and see each other as equals.



Another American value that America is not living up to is Unity. America in 2020 has become more divided than ever with what is going on in the country. With the pressures of the election the country has divided up into two. The Washington post held a poll about the division in the country nine months after the last presidential election, “it found that 7 in 10 Americans think the nation’s political divisions are as bad as during the Vietnam War,” which shows everyone knows it is bad but can’t do anything to help it (Gershon). There are many reasons why

there is such division, but the two party system of politics is a major factor. The two sides are trying to divide the country just for votes. This has caused people to either love or hate the politicians from each party. The differences of opinion and values cause arguments and hate amongst each other. There is no true right or wrong way to think or speak. It is everyone's right to freedom of speech and their own opinion. We should not judge someone based on a difference of opinion, we should value their opinion even if we disagree.



America is not living up to these core American values based on the dividing politics and racism in today's current society. This argument shows how American is guaranteeing these rights and privileges to it's people but at the same time is doing the exact opposite. This should help prove what is wrong with modern politics and modern society. These rights which are guaranteed to every citizen affect everyone everywhere. With no action against our disregarded rights there will be no change. We need everyone to see each other as equal and value each other's opinion to finally make the necessary changes. Everyone needs to help this cause because it is their values that are not being lived up to.

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