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American Studies

U.S. History

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We Can Do This Better

Equality and protest. Two of the most important rights that American people have. It is written clearly in the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment states that we as American people have the right to Religion, freedom of speech, assembly, and the right to petition. (U.S Const. Amend I) In the world that we are living in today we are seeing so many examples of these rights being used. The biggest one probably being the Black Lives Matter movement. But this movement is taking advantage of its American Values. Currently America is not living up to equality and protest the way that they should be.

With everything that is happening with protests in the world we are currently living in, the Black Lives Matter movement has really started to surface and be an eye opener to so many people. But it has surfaced for the wrong reasons. This movement has come to be known for the destruction that it has caused, and not for showing that all lives should be treated equally. The people that are associated with this movement are using their rights but these rights are being taken advantage of. Every American has the right to protest for what they think is right, but nowhere does it say that it is an American right to steal and vandalize others' property. All over the news we saw videos of things being set on fire in the street, storefront windows being smashed in, things being stolen. Some of which were very close to home. San Francisco and San Leandro were destroyed. We barely



saw peaceful protests on the news.

This example shows that the freedom of protest is being used, but taken advantage of.

Equality is something that everybody has the right to. For all lives to be treated equally no matter the circumstances, and it is understood by many that we are not all treated equally. One terrible example of this inequality was in Boston, during some of their shows. The resumes with “white sounding names” , whether they were male or female, were much more likely to get a call back rather than somebody with a “black sounding name”. The fact that this was even recognized is absolutely disgusting. Some do not realize the world of inequality that we live in, or don’t even recognize the major issue in the given example. But the way that equality is being fought for is resulting in complete destruction and riots. Businesses that have worked so hard to get to where they are today are being smashed in, and disrupted. This is not living up to the American value of equality in the way that it could be.

We all live by these core American values without even realizing it, but not to the potential that we could be. The racial inequality that is all around us is astonishing and absolutely disgusting when really looked into. Things need to change, and people need to realize that things need to get better. But it will be hard to see that changes if the core American values of protest and equality are taken advantage of.