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Mr. Donald Trump, President Elect

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Dear Mr. Donald Trump,

While searching through databases looking for credible sources for my writing, I found an extensive and colorful variety of ideas in the articles and publications on my topic of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement. The resources I've uncovered, that extend from the conservative to liberal perspective of the modern movement, have helped by giving me a broad perspective from people located around the country on what the BLM movement means, who it has effected, and what it's purpose has grown to become. I write to you hoping to show my research, along with many perspectives on this movement and it's inevitable meaning for your presidency.

My sources are broad, spanning from Pro BLM, to objective analysis of race and racism in America, to an opinion-based text on what the BLM movement is missing in terms as to why it will fail as a revolution. The four particular perspectives of my sources on the issue not only take on positive and negative views, but also rhetorical analyses as well as insider/outsider perspectives. I have chosen these particular perspectives hoping to enlighten you on some of the inter workings of the movement and perspectives of ALL Americans to help better inform your

decisions as our new president. As the President of the United States of America, you have a need to understand racially charged protests and political movements happening just outside the White House gates. This research's representation on the matter could directly contribute to your reputation going into the White House, by allowing it to broaden your mind and create a unified America. As you may know, your election into presidency has divided our country more than ever before.

Particularly factual and broad, I read through the article titled, "Accounts Of Injury As Misappropriations Of Race: Towards A Critical Black Politics Of Vulnerability." by Noemi Michel, a political theory professor at University of Geneva. In her article, Michel focuses primarily on equality and differences and politics of anti-racism. The article discusses the idea that the Black Lives Matter isn't a modern movement, but a piece of the puzzle of Black people in America fighting for equality and proper representation in politics. Michel explains the link between two political periods, "Although they concern different contexts in different periods, all these extracts can be considered to be accounts of injury." (Michel 2) She describes here that although Black political activism may change periods of time and context, both represent the fighting for civil rights against accounts of injury to their constitutional rights as citizens. This perspective encourages Black political protest against police brutality, promoting civil rights for all minorities continually from the 1960's to now due to accounts of injury to the race. This is cited and most recently represented in the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States.

My research then wandered to an article titled, "Why Race Still Matters 50 Years After The Enactment Of The 1964 Civil Rights Act" by Bryan Warde, which takes a historical approach to what we are experiencing now compared to the fight Blacks fought for the Civil

Rights Act of 1964. Warde explains the accomplishments since 1964, "...black people have made unprecedented strides in the 50 years since the enactment of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In higher education, a record of 4.5 million black people has a 4-year college degree..." (Warde 1) In this section, Bryan Warde describes increased education in Black Americans, while still showing the marginal gap between White Americans and Black Americans education today. This unbiased, historically driven perspective gives hard facts and shows the margin between where we've been, how far we've come, as well as how far we still need to go to achieve true equality. This article's particular interest to you, Mr. Trump, would be that equality does not yet exist. Your power and influence as our next president of the United States will either hinder or encourage progress towards equality. The divide of our nation needs to be sewn up.

A third and abstract perspective on my topic comes from Louis Hoffman, in the article titled "An Existential–Humanistic Perspective on Black Lives Matter and Contemporary Protest Movements". Louis Hoffman is A licensed psychologist, he often has been active in offering psychotherapy, assessments, and supervision throughout most of his career, and here discusses psychology of the Black Lives Matter movement. Hoffman defines a Contemporary Protest Movement as having, "decentralized leadership and utilizing social media and technology" (Hoffman 1). This compares BLM to the historical political and racial movements of the past, which rely on specific persons as leaders and use word of mouth and civic action to demonstrate. Mr. Trump, this movement is one which you should focus unyielding attention- primarily because there is no ONE leader, it is led by social media, the internet, and the power of people fighting racism, which we know together can be more powerful than one single person.

Finally, I have found the article by Robert Staples titled, “White Power, Black Crime, and Racial Politics” which was published in the Black Scholar publication. This article is powerful in representing White Power and its presence in Black crime. He uses real scenarios which exhibit the presence of White power, such as the story of Henry Louis Gates Jr. and his run in with the assumption that all Blacks commit crimes when he attempted to force the door open to his own residence after his key was faulty, “Gates’s arrest revealed a sharp racial division over what police can do to innocent Black citizens in the privacy of their own home.” (Staples 1) In this story, Robert Staples uncovers what White America refuses to believe: They receive daily gifts of the assumption of good intention, white Blacks receive the opposite. This is the precedent on which institutional racism is built. Mr. Trump, your further participation and encouraging equality for our nation can fill our divide, and change the nation.

The BLM movement is highly complex in a way that every man, woman, and child in America (and some outside the country) are witnessing a change in social standards. American’s view on whether these changes are positive or negative are up for interpretation, which is where you come into the discussion, Mr. Trump. The BLM movement has many facets, including those who believe simply the color of their skin determines their mortality level when police use force, to those who feel as if their social class has been forced and projected onto them due to their race, ethnicity, or background, to those who believe Black Americans have been unfairly tried and oppressed by our judicial system, along with those who believe racism “doesn’t exist” anymore.

Please take this research, along with the careful consideration of the voices behind the Black Lives Matter Movement, and put it to mind in your first 100 days of presidency. While

many Americans, particularly minorities and millennials doubt your interest in the matter, I hope this letter will encourage your involvement and understanding of the arguments surrounding equality in our country. I believe your position in world power is a delicate and fragile one. The BLM movement has proven to continue over the span of several years, gaining strength in numbers. To align with your beliefs of respecting our police force, acknowledging the BLM movement would greatly benefit the public's relation with all law enforcement. Please consider the Black Lives Matter Movement as part of your open dialogue in discussions on ways our country can improve, and truly "Make America Great Again".

Sincerely,

*Shawn Moriarty-Dobson*

## Sources Cited

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