

Is He Following Me?

By Laila Finklea

Shopping can be fun. Getting things that you want can be pretty cool. You're with your friends at the mall going to Forever 21, Gamestop, and comic stores, picking up things you probably don't need. Getting merch and is from your favorite T.V show is the best thing ever. They can get really expensive, but it's really worth it. Imagine walking out of the store with millions of small action figures and shirts with your favorite character on it but just then, a store employee walks up to you. You don't know why but you talk to them anyway. They say to " I must check your bag", you ask them why. They don't give you a complete answer they ask you again. You hesitantly hand over your bag to the employee. They open your bag and go through it without asking. You ask them again. They say that you are "suspected of stealing" and they need to check your bag. You look around to see a crowd of people looking at you and your friends. Just because of your skin color.

People in today's world get stopped all the time because of their skin color. some research I did on this topic is create a google form to see the reaction of my classmates to the topic. Most of them said that is was not ok that people were being judged just because of their skin color. One person said that they wouldn't help someone who was being racially profiled.

Lots of African Americans get racially profiled each year, but because of stereotypes, people just assume people are who they think they are, but they don't know them personally. I interviewed Leon Finklea my dad and his job is a police officer When I interviewed Leon Finklea he said that when he was in his first two days of college he was pulled over by a white police officer. Leon and his friends were arrested because of the color for their skin. He even said that because he's a police officer he sees profiling every day. I read a article about African Americans getting followed by employees when shopping. The article said that "racial profiling violates "the U.S. Constitution's core promises of equal protection under the law to all and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures." people's constitutional rights are getting taken away because of racial profiling. Some stores get sewed over people's constitutional rights (theestablishment.co). Another part of the

article I read was when they explained a poll they did on my topic. The poll shows how many people get watched in a year " In a 2013 Pew Research Center poll, 46% of black people reported unfair treatment in stores and restaurants, compared to only 16 percent of whites." this shows how many people get watched a year in different stores.

Sometimes people want to see how severe racial profiling is so, some people did a field experiment to see how people of color are being affected. "Field experiments have proven that shoppers of color are surveilled more closely than white shoppers, and one study that found black men and women shoppers were overwhelmingly followed or faced with other subtle racism, like excessive staring. Research indicates that black shoppers are also targeted over Latino and Asian customers. " This topic doesn't just affect African Americans. It can affect other people of color too.

In conclusion, people are affected by racial profiling, and stereotypes every day. Most people could stop this from happening but choose not to. But if people help, people of color during these situations they don't need to worry about this topic.

Bibliography

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Class survey