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## Farewell To Manzanar Final Essay

Natalie Lehman

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# Farewell to Manzanar Final Essay

By Natalie Lehman

Did you know that 59.6% of all hate crimes are based on race and ethnicity? Of that percentage, 53.6% of the offenders are caucasion Justice.gov states. It is important to teach this generation of students about racial prejudice in history and the Holocaust in particular, because there are current examples of both racism and genocide taking place around the world today. Future generations should also be taught about racial prejudice because we, as a world, do not want future generations to make the same mistakes.

Racism is a problem in the U.S. Everywhere you look there are signs of racism in people's words, posters, news, movies, etc. Many of these racist items aren't always non-violent. On October 27, 2018, Robert Bowers opened fire in a Pittsburgh synagogue. He was armed with multiple weapons including three handguns and an AR-15. That Saturday morning during worship eleven people were killed. This isn't the first time things like this have happened, but why isn't anyone doing anything about it?

Not all racism is that violent. Some don't even know they are the ones putting racist ideas into the world. Micro-aggression is a common way people add racism to the world, and some do so subconsciously. An example of this is when

someone says, “I don’t see you as black.” This is a racist comment coming from a place of privilege where the speaker could possibly be dismissing the person’s personality or experiences and is only seeing the color of their skin. This is a racist comment because it is following the stereotypical patterns of people’s behavior based off of their race. Unfortunately for some, this is so wired into their brains they have no idea how they are being racist. This is one of the reasons it is important to teach this generation and younger ones about racial prejudice in current events.

In addition to individuals carrying out racist attacks, entire governments are targeting groups of people based on religion. In China right now there are millions of Muslim people in “education and location centers”. I think, personally, they are exactly like internment camps. In 1942 many people were forced into camps called internment camps entirely because of their race or religion. This to me sounds a little too familiar. Many people from around the world would agree with me.

In a CNN interview with a young girl around the age of 18, she explains, “When I viewed the document, I learned that my younger sister was in a detention center for the last few years, I couldn’t eat or sleep for several days. I never imagined my younger sister would be in prison” (“China’s Xinjiang Records Revealed”). Her sister was put in this detention center for being Muslim and breaking a country-wide law. This law limits Xinjiang families to having only three children, and her sister had four children. Around five years ago, China

experienced terrorist attacks, mostly from people who followed the Muslim religion. China's president, Xi Jinping "gave very specific instructions in speeches after China was targeted" (Will Ripley, CNN;video) The Chinese government is forcing people out of their homes without any say and putting them in internment camps. China will put out videos of propaganda to make it seem like everyone is having a good time. However, the few who were not put in these camps or have escaped tell a different story. Everyone at one point thought that it was China's government against the people, which is a hard battle to fight. That is, until a Chinese government worker released 400 documents that proved horrible prison-like conditions were real and not just rumors. Some families when reading documents listing detainees hadn't known a family member was in the camps. This shows that there is no contact at all, and some people are even being taken away from their homes so quickly that they aren't able to tell their family members. One reason that is used a lot to support why we should put racial prejudice learning in our curriculum is because we, the people, do not want another repeat of the Holocaust or something worse to happen anywhere in the world. That in mind, it is happening right now. Why aren't people taking this as a sign to put it in the curriculum? This is another reason why we should add racial prejudice and current events into our curriculum.

The worst case scenario is when a government gets to the point where they will carry out genocide. Currently in southeast Bangladesh, thousands of Rohingya Muslims are being forced out of their homes by the Myanmar army. On August 15, 2017,

many Rohingya Muslims were being violently forced to flee. Some were raped, many were killed, and entire villages were burned to the ground. The survivors were put in a panic state without food, water, nor shelter. Most of them escaped to Bangladesh. In an interview from World Concern, a young girl named

Jahira tells her story. “Since I lost my parents I haven’t been happy. If the soul of my parents is missing, I keep thinking ‘why am I not dead?’” (“Answering the Cries of Rohingya Refugees”) Jahira had to watch her village be burned in front of her, her brother pulled away by the army, and her mother and father shot in front of her. Jahira herself was then pulled away along with three other girls. These types of horrible stories aren’t uncommon for lots of people. If we teach these signs in current events, it can prevent future generations from making the same mistakes that happen now or have happened in the past.

It is important to teach racial prejudice in current events in school because there are many signs of early genocide and racism in the world. We do not want future generations making the same mistakes that past generations made. The start of genocide signs is shootings or passive aggressive racism, and then it leads up to an entire government hating a race or religion. The worst case scenario is when the government actually takes action to kill or force out certain races and religions. If we do not teach about racial prejudice in schools, then how are students supposed to learn about the horrible things that happened in the past? Everyone says “history

repeats itself,” but in most cases that isn’t a good thing. If we were to teach racial prejudice in school, it could help history not repeat the bad things in history. These reasons are why I think we should teach racial prejudice in schools and modern curriculum.