

Shawaunna

Ever since I could remember there have been many walls blocking different cultures in this world, keeping us separated. Barriers have held us back for many years, it has slowed down our process as a country to create opportunities and a better tomorrow for people who may never have the chance to do that in life. Stereotyping, hate crimes, and the disapproval of races are examples of barriers that are very noticeable in today's society if we continue to put up these walls it will only bring us down, and could eventually lead to the World's destruction.

Historically, these have been plenty events, that resulted in tragedy, involving race (cultures). One that I remember clearly from history class is the uprising of gangs during the 1800s. The Americans disliked the idea of immigrants coming from all over the world to join "their" country. When the immigrants settled, people began to gang up on them because when they came they took many jobs from the natives, while they were fighting for change such as pay raises, lower rent, and benefits. The immigrants were offering to work for less. As a result, the Americans would try to get revenge. Eventually the Immigrants, after all the torture, they came together with others of their race and formed gangs for protection. This created the biggest barrier between races, which influence the barriers today. Although there are some places where it has improved, there are others where the barriers are standing, preventing us from being united. For example, at my school the minority of students are Hispanic, Asians, and Caucasians, and the majority are African American. The minority students

usually stick with the other minority students (usually of their same race). It often seems that they feel more comfortable, more themselves, around people that grew up the same way as them, and speak the same language as them, also people who believe in the same things that they do. Sometimes it is good to be around people like yourself. But it is better to be around people from different backgrounds as you because you learn about different cultures, languages, and personalities. It can be helpful to you in the long-run because it'll make you a more well-rounded person.

Some people in society today don't think the same as I do, some because of ignorance others because of an exaggerated belief associated with a race, which is called a stereotype. All white people have a lot of money or are rich, all Asians do nails and dry-cleaning, all Hispanics, eat tacos, and all African Americans eat fried chicken. These are a few examples of stereotypes we hear every day. Some can be, and some are, more serious than that, some are so serious that they can turn one against the other leading to more violence (hate crimes).

Today we live in a society that we call the "United" States of America. According to the Webster dictionary the word "United" means "to put or join together so as to make one or combine". In my own opinion, I don't believe the United States of America is very "United". Years ago African Americans, Hispanics, and some Caucasians were slaves and we still went by the name United States. Through racial segregation we still called ourselves the United States. Since then we have been "Integrated" but in a way it's not because

races still separate themselves from other races.

I, myself, can say that I helped to break this barrier because I, an African American befriended a Hispanic twelve years ago and to this day we are still friends. During that time period I also befriended many others of different races. I don't see people by their color I see us all as one. We are all family of this one nation of this one world and if we all as a whole split things up into races we will only hurt ourselves. So all I can say is I am making the world a better place by breaking the barriers now it is time for you to make a difference.