

## **Color Of Fear Critical Response Paper**

**Directions:** Based on your notes from the film “Color of Fear” answer the following questions in a paper at least 3 *FULL* pages long. Do not simply answer the questions or use numbers for all of your answers. This needs to be a paper that could be understood even if the reader had not seen the list of questions.

### **1. Consciousness and prejudice and discrimination:**

As discussed throughout this course, the media and the public in general often conceptualize racism, prejudice, and discrimination as being overt or blatant acts perpetrated by individuals who are consciously trying to hurt people of color (i.e. burning a cross or wearing a KKK outfit). Throughout the film the men of color shared stories of times they have experienced racism or discrimination from people who were not intentionally trying to be insensitive or discriminatory. What does this tell us about the relationship between an individual being racist, prejudice, or simply insensitive and the individuals awareness of the impacts of their behavior? Lastly, in your opinion, which takes more conscious thought being actively racist or actively trying to avoid being racist? Why?

### **2. Racism, prejudice, discrimination and the individual perception of reality**

Throughout the film David struggled to accept the perspectives of the other men of color as being “founded” in reality. He seemed to think they were “seeing something that wasn’t there”. Why would David feel that way? To answer this question you need to discuss how our individual perception (i.e. we can only see from our own eyes) affects our perception of reality.

### **3. Institutional Discrimination**

Throughout the film David said, “I have never felt privileged” and “you say I have this power, but I have never felt powerful”. How does our understanding of institutional discrimination (from the text and lecture) help us to understand why David would be unaware of any benefit he received because of his social status (i.e. race, class, gender)?

### **4. Was David “cured” of his racism in the end?**

To answer this question I want you to tell me how you conceive racism, prejudice, and discrimination and why. Is being a racist, sexist, classist, homophobe, etc something that you are or you are not?

### **5. Review of film as a sociological piece**

What questions would you ask either the filmmaker or the men in the film? What areas of racism, prejudice, or discrimination would you like them to cover more? Do you feel the movie was even handed or did you find it to be biased? Tell me why?