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Equality

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Malik Jackson

Equality

Equality is something that is longed for by everyone in our society. Being equal means that not one group of people has more control or power over another; everyone has the same.

Today, “equality” is a word that is tossed around. Many believe that all people are already treated the same and fairly, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. The word “equality” is like a ball of cotton surrounded by flames. It always burns; it never wins the fight. When will there ever be enough cotton to suppress the flame? Those days should have been here by now. This should not be an issue in today’s society. It is a constant battle trying to get people to believe that our society is still not equal.

When speaking about equality in our society, where do we even begin? We are mainly speaking about racial and gender equality. African Americans and other minorities still face challenges trying to achieve the same things that other races have already accomplished.

Sometimes it feels like we have only come forward to be dragged back again. This is slavery in modern America. We don’t have the same justice system as those outside of the minority class.

Even though we still face certain challenges like racism, times have changed, and that means we fight back with no fear of being chased after like our ancestors had. We have our freedom, but we are still working our way towards being equal in all aspects. It’s like being trapped in a zoo, we have the feeling of being in the wild, but that feeling is only simulated.

Gender equality is another form of equality that people like to claim exists, but anyone who takes the time to do the research will see that the facts show men are paid more in our society. Men and women can do the same jobs, but the man will more than likely make the

top dollar. Why is that? I still do not know the answer myself, but I know it stems from hundreds of years ago of when men were seen to be the ones in charge of the household, and women were only there to take care of the men and the family. That was hundreds of years ago. Women today are educated, and should be paid the same as men for doing the same types of jobs. Our society likes to put this barrier on you based on things such as the color of your skin and your gender. If we were truly equal, then race or gender would not define how we are treated. Although women have made many societal strides, they still are not equal in numerous ways. For example, Women still are only paid seventy-nine cents for every dollar a man makes. In addition to women being paid twenty-one percent less than men, women also aren't given the opportunity to partake in leadership roles. CNN states out of the 500 companies that are in the S&P 500, only 24 of the CEO's are female. Yes, there is a 5.2% increase in female CEO's since 2000, but men still largely outnumber women. Throughout history, there have been multiple arguments stating that women don't have as many leadership positions because of their lack of education, but that is false. Despite men being admitted to college at a higher rate than women, according to the *Washington Post*, women tend to graduate at a higher rate (10%) than men. Educational institutions and the workplace aren't the only places where discrimination against women is prominent. Prejudices also occur in more casual settings, like on the streets.

To conclude, equality is something that we wish was actually true. People in our society throw the word "equality" around loosely, but to be honest, equality is something that is still being fought for today. Will we ever reach actually being equal? That question is quite debatable.