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Equality in America

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Dalisia Pounds

Equality in America

Equality has always been hard to achieve, especially in this country. People have fought and fought for hundreds of years just to be considered equal to others. Although some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go. Equality means being equal in status, rights, and opportunities. In this country, we claim to treat everyone equally, but we never have. These inequalities are prevalent in the work force, in the school systems, the media, the judicial system, and in politics.

One of America's current presidential candidates is an example of someone who does not represent equality. He believes women are incompetent and are only useful for sex and cooking. He does not believe that men and women should have the same rights, let alone be equal. Donald Trump believes whites are superior, specifically white men. His racist beliefs are prevalent in every debate, every speech, and every interview he does. This is extremely scary because he is a very popular candidate. Being an African American woman, I have experienced inequality too frequently, being treated differently just because of my gender and the color of my skin. This shows how little progress America has made when it comes to equality, something that people from other countries come here expecting to find.

I was at work one day, and I was treated unequally because of the color of my skin. I worked at Winn Dixie, and I was ringing up a customer. He said I purposely crushed his chips, so he demanded I go get him a different bag and called me a dirty black girl. I did not even know how to respond. I called my manager, and she took the customer's side. She was also white. She told me, the customer is always right, and sent me home for the day. Even though he was clearly

in the wrong, I was the one who was penalized. This day I realized racism is still very alive. I knew it still existed before this, but experiencing it yourself does something to you.

Some Americans do believe in equality. Bernie Sanders was a presidential candidate with great views on equality. He wanted everyone to be treated equally and be given the same opportunities. Him not being chosen in the primaries again shows how little America has changed. Someone with such great views and beliefs, not chosen. People who represent equality in America are usually hushed up and overlooked. Only a few want real change, and they are hard to find. People have been fighting for equality in this country since before it even existed and though we have made progress, it is still a huge problem.

Equality is treating people equally regardless of race, skin tone, income, or sex. I do believe equality in America can be achieved. People must be willing to work for it and take a stand. People want change but do nothing to achieve it. If we all take a stand and attempt to make a change, maybe we will. Through our education and eventually our careers, we can make a difference, those of us who are willing to.