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Colorism: the Downfall of the African-American Culture

Over the past twenty years, the African-American culture has become less of a family and more of an ongoing competition between those with light skin and those with dark skin. Recently, colorism and self-hatred have become very popular and prominent in the African-American culture. Colorism and self-hatred are corrupting and African-American community, fostering generations of close-minded African-Americans, and lessening the value of blacks in America. Colorism has caused a chain of other problems in the African-American community. Such hatred and discrimination has ripped the community apart, diluted the once rich African culture, and raised and fostered a generation of colorists. Other negative affects such as harmful skin-bleaching and low self-esteem are also directly affected by colorism and other forms of discrimination in the black community. Also, the affects of media and psycho-social culture will

~~be analyzed~~

Colorism isn't anything new. Every since slavery, African-Americans with lighter skin were favored over those with darker skin. If a person had light skin, they had a connection to the white man. If a light-complected person applied for a job with an extremely over-qualified darker-skinned person, the lighter person would get the job if it were up to colorism. "In the 1950s and 60s,

~~the owner of Chock full o' nuts, a white man named William Black,~~ advertised in the tabloids for 'light colored counter help,' an example of nth-degree discrimination," (Staples)

Those with lighter skin almost always got the job position, even though more qualified people

applied. "They did it to improve their chances and to reassure white employers who, even though they hired African-Americans, found dark skin unpleasant or believed that their customers would" (Staples). Colorism is also a wide-spread problem. There have been cases of colorism in the Dominican Republic and Brazil. "Even though both nations boast of mixed populations of European, Indigenous, and African descent, people of obvious African ancestry, the majority of both populations, are discriminated against based on their darker skin color" (Fuller 1). "DR and Brazil are societies built on colorism, in which a person is classified based on the shade of their skin color and not their ancestry. Thus a person with an African and European background and a light complexion could be classified as white" (Fuller 1). There are also instances of colorism in places such as India and even Africa. "In India, women strive to achieve the "wheat" colour much-requested on Asian dating websites. In the Caribbean, light skin is also highly desired while in African countries even seemingly minor variations in skin tone can contribute to ethnic conflict" (Walters). Instances of colorism can be found throughout the world today. The lack of job opportunities, appreciation, admiration, and respect has caused problems for African communities all over the world, especially in America.

One of the main problems caused by colorism is all forms of hatred. According to Dictionary.com, hatred is defined as intense dislike or extreme aversion or hostility. Over the years, because of colorism, millions of African-Americans are victims of self-hatred. Because darker African-Americans are not society's image of beauty, the darker community's self-esteem has been lowered. Also, skin color could influence things such as job opportunities and salary. "Black is not always black. Subtle distinctions in skin tone translate into significant differences in outcomes" (Bodenhorn). Darker African-Americans, within the African-American community, are treated differently because of something so insignificant as skin tone. In the African-

American community, [colorism] traditionally played out via the paper bag test. Those lighter than the standard paper lunch bag were allowed entry into fraternities, sororities and other realms of black upper class life, while dark-skinned blacks were excluded" ("Definition of Colorism")

In colorism, skin color is the only judging factor. A person with darker skin could be more attractive than a person with lighter skin, but, looking through the eyes of a colorist, the person with a lighter complexion is more attractive, worthy, and valuable. Lighter skin has become less of a personal preference, and more of a stigma. "The interviews pointed to slavery and a social stigma attached to darker skin" (Kai). The affects of colorism are really impacting the African culture and the youth.

Colorism is real and it's ruining the community.

"The Black Community has been wrestling with our own dirty, ugly, little secret since slavery, when we were [taught] to rate and hate each other heavily dependent on each others skin

colour" ("The Ugly Dark Skin Black Girl Compromise"). Because African-Americans are being judged by something as simple and uncontrollable as skin color, self-esteem, especially in

African-American women, has seen a drastic decrease. This in and of itself is fatal to African-Americans of all ages. Self-hatred and self-esteem go hand-in-hand. If, from a very young age, a person has been taught to hate *oneself* ~~themselves~~ they will never have a healthy level of self-esteem.

Low self-esteem can lead to a slue of other problems. Promiscuity, theft, and other issues are all directly caused by problems such as low self-esteem. Eating disorders *have* is another issue that has

been shown to be caused by low self-esteem. Colorism is a generational curse and so it low self-esteem. "In some cases, evidence for this relationship is so strong that it is even thought by some researchers that chronic low self-esteem is a necessary prerequisite for disordered eating (Silverstone 1992)" (Hanlon). Because of all these emotions and a lack of answers and empathy due to colorism and discrimination, that person with will have to find a new way to cope. This

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causes a whole new problem. What is done with these emotions is different for everyone, but, for younger people, it's vital that something productive is done with these emotions. There are numerous, African-American youth groups all throughout America. One, The African American Youth Leadership Program (AAYLP), is just for high school juniors and seniors. ~~This program~~

~~gives children the skills needed to excel.~~ "Students who participate in SOL strive to make a

positive impact on the African American Community" ("African American Youth..") ~~Also, the~~

~~committee of AAYLP~~ ^{makes} ~~it a point to fully prepare their participants for the "real world"~~

^{Topics} ~~experience. Issues~~ such as racism, colorism, and emotional issues are covered during the

^{subjects} conference. Some more personal issues such as self-esteem, self-hatred, and self-worth are also mentioned.

Generational low self-esteem is real and prominent. Low self-esteem is just one of the many effects ^{that has caused} of colorism. In generational low self-esteem, if a mother is born into a colorist society, it's very likely that that woman's children will have the same self-esteem issues even if they're not in a colorist situation. This is true for colorists. The beliefs and ideas of a parent are passed down to the children. Through colorism and other forms of discrimination, the African-American community is fostering a generation of dark children with low self-esteem and light-complected children with over-sized ^{egos} ~~egos and colorist views.~~ "In one way, the low self-esteem might be so ingrained in our subconscious ~~mind~~ ^{that} that we rarely know its existence" ("The Low self-esteem..").

^{any} Having low self-esteem is very dangerous for a person of any age. When it comes to colorism, there have been numerous cases of people resorting to skin-bleaching procedures to lighten their skin. "Bleaching is a huge industry in developing countries. This legacy of slavery or colonization, where lighter-skinned or white people were given visible privileges over

the white community has more love for the black community than the black community has for itself. "A flurry of legal and cultural disputes over the past decade has revealed a new race-related controversy gaining traction: an emerging belief in anti-white prejudice. Whites believe...the pendulum has now swung beyond equality in the direction of anti-white

discrimination." [Nittle] Now whites are feeling discriminated against. Why does the African-

American have so much hate for their own people and other communities of America? There have been many studies conducted on this subject and they all say the same thing: blacks are

resentful of whites for racism, that's the basis for black on white racism. But, in a way, blacks are doing exactly what whites did to them. African-Americans are picking out the people with light skin and "good hair", the people who are more closely related to the white man, and calling them superior. Whilst doing so, those with coarser hair and darker skin are made to feel less than because they aren't as close to the white man. Why are blacks striving so hard to become a mirror image of the race that oppressed the African-American people? The African-American culture is suffering from mental slavery. The black community has been hit like never before. African-Americans are no longer oppressed by whites, blacks are oppressing their own people. "Within the last decade, racism has become colorism. Black vs. black racism is what we're left with. A lot of whites believe that they're discriminated against more so than blacks. now-a-days, [Nittle] Colorism isn't the only problem. Now-a-days, the African-American community is raising a generation of colorists and resentful racists.

Colorism has become a large, and shameful aspect of America's African-American communities. The black community has gone from a place of strong, rich culture, to a mass war based on skin color and heritage. Colorism causes many problems for all of America. African-Americans with darker skin are left with crushed self-esteem and a slue of other problems and

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those with lighter skin are favored for something as shallow as skin color. The African-American community is raising and fostering a generation of racists and colorist African-Americans. In today's society, that's the last thing that should be done. This topic, colorism, is important because it affects so many people. Colorism is like a disease that has the ability to infect anyone of any age. Sadly, colorism is most prominent in the African-American community. Colorism is exactly like racism which has been a big part of America. People need to know more about this topic. It's important and the only way to stop it is to educate people on the subject.

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~~Some people know that in America, there are different skin colors and that some people are lighter than others. But they don't know that colorism is a real thing. It's a form of racism that is based on skin color. It's a problem that affects many people, especially African-Americans. Colorism is a problem that is often ignored. It's a problem that is often overlooked. It's a problem that is often forgotten. It's a problem that is often dismissed. It's a problem that is often denied. It's a problem that is often ignored. It's a problem that is often overlooked. It's a problem that is often forgotten. It's a problem that is often dismissed. It's a problem that is often denied.~~

Conclusion:




- Physical, mental, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, psychological problems
- Youth
- Dfeputio; Brazil: world-wide problem
- Job / Relationship problem

GRADEMARK REPORT






FINAL GRADE
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GENERAL COMMENTS










PAGE 1

-  **Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.
-  **P/V** You have used the passive voice in this sentence. Depending upon what you wish to emphasize in the sentence, you may want to revise it using the active voice.
-  **Frag.** This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.



PAGE 2

-  **Proofread** This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.
-  **Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.
-  **Frag.** This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.
-  **Sentence Cap.** Remember to capitalize the first word of each sentence.
-  **Frag.** This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.

PAGE 3

-  **Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.
-  **Article Error** You may need to remove this article.
-  **Article Error** You may need to remove this article.
-  **Possessive** You may need to use an apostrophe to show possession.
-  **Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.
-  **Frag.** This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.
-  **Frag.** This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.
-  **Pronoun** This pronoun may be incorrect.
-  **P/V** You have used the passive voice in this sentence. Depending upon what you wish to emphasize in the sentence, you may want to revise it using the active voice.

PAGE 4

-  **Wrong Article** You may have used the wrong article or pronoun. Proofread the sentence to make sure that the article or pronoun agrees with the word it describes.
-  **S/V** This subject and verb may not agree. Proofread the sentence to make sure the subject agrees with the verb.



Frag. This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.



S/V This subject and verb may not agree. Proofread the sentence to make sure the subject agrees with the verb.



Possessive This word may be a plural noun and may not need an apostrophe.



Proofread This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.

PAGE 5



Run-on This sentence may be a run-on sentence. Proofread it to see if it contains too many independent clauses or contains independent clauses that have been combined without conjunctions or punctuation. Look at the "Writer's Handbook" for advice about correcting run-on sentences.



Sp. This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



Sp. This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



Sp. This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



P/V You have used the passive voice in this sentence. Depending upon what you wish to emphasize in the sentence, you may want to revise it using the active voice.



Frag. This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.



Article Error You may need to use an article before this word. Consider using the article **the**.



Frag. This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.



Confused You have used **it** in this sentence. You may need to use **its** instead.



Article Error You may need to use an article before this word.



Article Error You may need to remove this article.



Garbled Grammatical or spelling errors make the meaning of this sentence unclear. Proofread the sentence to correct the mistakes.



Confused You have used **its** in this sentence. You may need to use **it's** instead.

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Sentence Cap. Remember to capitalize the first word of each sentence.



Frag. This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.



S/V This subject and verb may not agree. Proofread the sentence to make sure the subject agrees with the verb.



Prep. You may be using the wrong preposition.



Frag. This sentence may be a fragment or may have incorrect punctuation. Proofread the sentence to be sure that it has correct punctuation and that it has an independent clause with a complete subject and predicate.