All Lives Matter, but We’re Focused on the Black Ones Right Now

When looking at racism in today’s society most people wouldn’t think to look at it as an internal conflict. The epidemic of black men being killed is not the fault of the African-American community. It has been such an ongoing problem that society is still ignorant to, that if we want change, we must cause the change that we want to see. If everything we have been trying to end racism isn’t working, it is a sign that we need to try something different.

Herb Boyd addresses this issue when he wrote in his scholarly source “Let Us Liberate Ourselves.” It is geared towards the African American community that is just now growing up because we are a more liberal society than the generations before us; therefore, initiating change shouldn’t be as difficult. Boyd believes that focusing on racism as an internal problem will fix the major issues that come along with it. I believe wholeheartedly that we can change society if we all band together.

Christine Greta’s source synthesizes with Boyd’s argument in her popular source “The Part about Black Lives Mattering Where White People Shut Up and Listen.” She states that it is important that white people must listen in situations where they know little about because ignorance comes off as racist. “Listening means just that—listening. It means letting the other person have the floor. It means letting the other person decide the topic and set the tone. It means
that whatever talking we do is peripheral, done in service of understanding and amplifying. And sometimes—much of the time—it means shutting our mouths, and opening our minds” (Greta, Christina). Situations when they should listen instead of talk could add to our society positively because education is key. In order for other races to be supportive of the Black Lives Matter movement we don’t necessarily need input, we just need educated people to stand alongside African-Americans in whatever they are doing.

African-Americans must push the need for racism to be eliminated by working within our own community. We need to get rid of ignorance by combating it with education because it is serving as a distractor from our main goal. This goal is to progress society towards racism not existing anymore. Greta realizes that generally whites are ignorant to the fact that racism exists and it is important that they become educated about it so as not to add fuel to the fire. Boyd supports African-Americans bettering the community and because it is such an internal mission; he would agree with Greta when she says that white people need to listen when we say Black Lives Matter instead of having an input.