

## The Rage of the American Dream

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### Reflections from the author

We discussed in class identities and privilege. I chose to write and recite this poem about my racial identity of African American/Black. I believe we are deprived of so many things our ancestors fought for; specifically equality.

In this piece, I give a perspective of expressing our anger toward the system, toward each other, and police brutality. There are stereotypes that suggest Black people are aggressive and Black women are angry. I wanted to give a little more insight about what this anger is about and what we are doing to overcome injustice. I mention more of us are actually getting doctorate degrees. In history we were deprived of an education.

Our ancestors were put in jail for marching and fighting for a lot of rights and today many are still being put in jail and left there. White privilege is prevalent in today's society and Blacks aren't offered those same opportunities. Blacks are angry at each other as well. We are killing off our own people and don't realize if we are doing it to ourselves, the higher authority doesn't care about killing us off either.

I created this creative expression in relation to our lectures on the identity of the African American race, and I decided to talk about historic features and activists or people relevant to the Black community, and how with each generation we are becoming more aware of our surroundings.

I also know many people think we are broken and our culture is broken. But I know we are sticking together as well. This is why I talk about us bearing arms. I see and hear the anger every time another black person has been hurt, killed, or arrested. I hear the anger every time a police officer gets away with murder of one of our Black people. I see the tiredness, and I see the impact being Black has on us as a whole. I love my Black culture and I want us stick together and bear arms with each other just as much as we would take a gun to bear in our hands and shoot.

*They say our generation is a disgrace to the nation but I say wake up because our generation is crazed trying to protect us from discriminatory cases.*

*The news shows black on black crime all the time  
tick tock if you don't trick we're given even more time  
Now, police are striking us and not even given the same time*

*what's wrong with our nation*  
*Is it really because generation x didn't know how to react to why our generation is considered*  
*everyone's number one question y?*  
*That's the same question I ask when police are determined to make us die*  
*If we duck that's just our luck*  
*because even if our hands are up we still get struck*  
*I say stop shooting we want to grow up*  
*Why shoot when he had his hands up*  
*We strike because we want to defend our men*  
*and things like striking Sandra Bland then yelling suicide really don't blend*  
*Putting our hands up just to be shot down*  
*Talking about having cameras to show what's happening when no one else is around*  
*took a long time to present the case of Laquan upfront*  
*Oh how did the big screen manage to pull that stunt.*  
*See I'm not saying our nation brings police brutality*  
*So let's bring it back to reality*  
*See I'm telling u our hands have always been up*  
*From being whipped by chains to being hung by chains*  
*What's the difference between our hands being up then to now*  
*having our hands up and bullets ricochetin' through our hands*  
*See imma do the opposite from Rosa Parks, imma stand up and ain't no sitting back down*  
*It's time to let y'all know that this new generation is gonna Shut it down*  
*And let y'all!!!!*  
*try to pull it*  
*We gon' make it known that we still in town*  
*Our ancestors fought for our rights*  
*And Abraham fought for unity*  
*See*  
*The next time someone tells you to surrender don't just put your hands up*  
*I want u to Ball your fist up and raise it as high as you can to the sky*  
*See imma go ahead and tell y'all how generation x still fits into y*  
*The amendment states we got the right to bear arms*  
*And*  
*See a mother will always hold her child down and*  
*Generation x might not always be around but x gone always make it*  
*extremely hard for u to hunt us down*  
*Try shooting down a bear when it's a thousand of them around*  
*They gone bear arms and really hold our youth down*  
*At the end of the day we gon' stick together because it's in our name that's just like when the FBI*  
*capture a gang*

*Dr. King just wanted the American dream to remain  
 He had a dream that we will someday work it out  
 See let me goin' head n tell y'all what my piece is all about  
 that dream ain't demolished  
 It's just taking another route  
 They tryna be our masters but too bad too many of us already got that clout  
 They tryna stop us from getting our PhD cuz they don't even want us to survive to even get a  
 GED  
 See...  
 Yes, it's not just black lives that matter  
 All lives matter  
 But what's the matter?  
 The point of the matter is I'm tired we're angered of being brutally beaten broken into pieces  
 Bruised until bleeding  
 Put behind bars with no bail  
 While others are getting out quick as hell  
 Even for the same reasons we were put in jail  
 No justice no peace no justice no peace no justice no peace  
 The world will never be at peace no matter how much we preach  
 As long as our brothers are getting shot down in these streets  
 How can you sleep knowing you laid someone out in the streets  
 Do their blood splatter across your mind every time  
 Do their name release your mouth tasting like salt that you couldn't fully swallow  
 Do their eyes look back at you through an innocent person who's startled  
 We were given rights and still being done wrong  
 So let me tell u about generation x and y  
 We are naturally born crafter's  
 This is where generation z comes in at cuz before the end of life we goin' have all y'all sleeping  
 And to my black people keep pushing don't give up  
 Teach our youth and fight for all our rights  
 But if black don't matter to you  
  
**How do you think black would ever matter to blue!***