



What's Goin' On? Our Perspective

Over the summer, HEY! members, led by facilitator Mabel Howard, embarked on eight weeks of education and deep discussion focused on the issues on the minds of youth. Racism and discrimination, body image, substance abuse, suicide and COVID-19 were just a sampling of topics covered. After each session, members were invited to create a piece of artwork to represent their individual message about the issue at hand.

The White Mask

By Laney Veres



Discrimination

Essay by Tori Spearman

As you may know the Declaration states "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal". These wise words were said by our second president, Mr. Thomas Jefferson. The thing is most people do not understand it. All Men are created equal. The meaning of it is just that. It is self-evident and those are the truths that Jefferson was talking about. Although this was written almost 245 years ago there was never an expiration date set. See in this country we tend to see and the disclose. We notice but never act upon. We hear but don't listen! Even in our dearly beloved national anthem we repeatedly state "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave" meaning we are all free to be who we are. Whether that is black, white, Hispanic, male, female or a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. We are free by law to be ourselves and that is something nobody can ever take away no matter what anyone tells you. Never let anyone tell you otherwise. Assert yourself and know your rights!

Enough is Enough

by Genelia Kang

Since the country was created,
The topic's been debated,

White continues to soar above black,
And I know that everybody still lacks,

Some Founding Fathers chattered,
Surely, black lives matter!

Enough knowledge to truly know
What the depths of history show.

Outvoted three to one,
The Declaration done and done,

It repeats, and it always has been,
Killing innocents has never been a sin,

White lives remained on top,
While blacks were whipped nonstop! I'm done with it all.

But enough is enough,

In 1955,
White lives continued to thrive,

Everyone deserves a voice,
No matter how big, nor how small.

Blacks fought for equal rights,
Sparking many nationwide fights.

And a long time ago,
When the Founding Fathers chattered

Over six decades have passed,
Now we look back, aghast,

The vote should have been
unanimous,
It's official: Black lives matter.

The ladder stays the same,
To not ruin white's good name.

I need you in my life

Original song by Tyler White

Click on the picture below to listen

