

## Eastern Region Winning Submission

Student Name: Madisyn Ford  
Teacher's Name: Lydia Whitelam  
School: Oscar Smith High School  
Grade Level: 10

Poetry Submission:

So what is "social justice"?  
Are we talking about inequality or nationality?  
2013 Black Lives Matter.  
So, I have a question?  
What happened to "all for one & one for all"?  
Liberty and Justice for all.  
You, as the people.  
You, as the nation, we are running out of patients.  
I'm talking about the 2020 protest.

My life & many others seem to be expendable.  
By a system I felt was totally dependable in being unreliable.  
I'm hoping in time Justice will be sought in time.  
For those to blame for this battle I surely fought.

So if you're wondering "How Can I Help?"  
Or "What Can I Do?" I can help by educating a few.  
So do you know about Rosa Parks, MLK Jr.  
As they inspired the influence for the continuous fight.  
The matter of right.  
For 400 years still grappling with Police Brutality, Sexuality and Equality.

Justice for all.  
Just isn't specific enough.  
Resistance in us, that's why Rosa Parks sat on the bus.  
That's why when we walk our heads up, hands up & feet touching the ground.  
So I've seen what the future holds for us.

Our history, decades of characterization  
History of black lives and how we became to strive  
Were fighting difference with different, conspicuous  
Mis- understood, the Myths and my superiority  
Black faces, Men and Women  
When is it going to end?  
I'm asking myself time again  
A different place, different face, but always the same race.  
A lot of people don't want to talk about Police Brutality, and LGBTQ sexuality.

Once said "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

SO never look back, meaning way back, keep your head in tack looking forward.

So upweight the slack.

Religion comes with the black lives, your lives and our lives.

So were we talking about Social Justice?

Black Society, More Minorities I'm saying...

Declaration of Independence quoting in bold

"A nation in which there would be equal justice for all"

Still years later

More like tears later still unachieved, disbelieved.

We're still fighting.

Here's the 13th Amendment we still in depth then prohibited, slavery more like still prohibiting.

Half free, we got more to be, we're still crying, were all the same, we all bleed. We all hurt, we all see, I'm meaning EQUAL.

I'm saying there should be more teaching about black lives in classes of history.

When we're on taught about black slavery our skin is still a mystery.

Mis-continuous, unreliable resources.

So do it on your own time find your black line

Read up on your history so when you look at your skin it's like...

Ohh that's the mystery?

Let's move way back, for the past 400 years, like the years of tears.

1719, 1st Amendment, we were all free more like, half free.

I'm a black teen talking about black lives like soul ties.

Black lives are tangled into history, you can't miss us because we played a big part in your victory. In order to help with the misconception of oppression you have to go way back talking 1619, when this all started.

So you wanna know our story, so hit the books and take a look.

We all got the power, use your voice, I'm not just talking about black lives I'm saying all lives.

So we can strive for a better future.

Let us know we are not forgotten, let's be brought in.

Words are powerful, read the stories and the triumphs, along with the current history.

I'm just one child with a voice but with millions we can't be touched.