

Hello, I'm Aubrey. I'm going to tell you how these past months have changed my view of the world and why my life matters. This year has been hard for everyone. The whole world shut down for almost 3 months which was hard for everyone to deal with. From these months to now, a lot of things have happened. I had to sit back and watch all these things happen in these months. During this pandemic, I witnessed the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmuad Arbery, and more. My list could go on and on but, these are the ones I learned about during this pandemic. You're probably wondering who these people are? Well, these people lost their lives because of their skin color. Before, these deaths I didn't ever think that because of my skin color I have a higher risk of getting killed by people who don't like me because of my skin color.

The death of Breonna Taylor happened on March 13, 2020. Breonna was a 26-year-old woman who was a First Responder, and she sadly lost her life way too early. She died from being shot by Louisville police officers during a raid at her apartment. Only one officer was arrested for the killing but the other 2 officers weren't arrested for Breonna's death. This all happened because they didn't follow all the rules when raiding a house. They saw both Brianna and her boyfriend but still shot into the apartment. Her boyfriend thought it was a robbery because the police didn't say it was them when they raided the apartment. Even though Brianna didn't get full justice she got something from people protesting for the black lives matter movement and Brianna. This is an example of how my life should matter even if I am African American.

George Floyd was an African American man who was killed by Minneapolis, Minnesota police. This happened during an arrest from a store clerk who allegedly passed a counterfeit 20 dollar bill. A caucasian police officer knelt on George's neck for about 8 minutes 46 seconds. When trying to arrest. After his death protest happened against police brutality in lots of cities in America for months to come. The police officer who knelt on his neck was arrested for second-degree murder and manslaughter. There were other officers at the scene who were fired from the Minneapolis police and charged with abetting and face aiding. George Floyd was an innocent man who was a father, son, and brother. He was treated this way, because of the color of his skin. This is yet again another example of why I matter.

Ahmuad Arbery was a regular man just walking around a South Georgia neighborhood. He was not a threat to anyone but was chased by armed white residents. Ahmuad Arbery was only 25 years old and he was shot to death on February 25th 2020 because he was African American. Sadly, his death was recorded by someone who thought it would be cool to record something like that.

The person who recorded was arrested with a felony and criminal attempt. They also arrested the people who shot Ahmuad, and they were charged with murder and aggravated assault. Even though these people were arrested it took the Georgia police way too long. Ahmuad died in February but, it took them until May to arrest both people. This is unreasonable that it took the Police that long to arrest people who clearly committed the crime. It's sad to hear these things but, it gives justice for the deaths and helps to prevent things like this from happening in the future.

After you've heard about these three deaths you're wondering why would I choose this as to why my life matters, well let me tell you why. These people represent why my life matters as an African American girl. People stereotype my race as thugs and bad people which isn't true. We are brilliant, beautiful, and proud African American people. When writing this I thought about these people who lost their life because of the way they looked. I wonder if I'm next. For someone who is an African American person, we have to worry about things we're doing because our neighbor might call the police on us and say we are doing something wrong. This false accusation could cause someone to lose their life. My life matters not because of the way I look, where I'm from, or who I am. It's because everyone matters in this world whether or not they are different from you. This year opened people's eyes that Black lives matter, My life matters, and everyone should matter.