The Talk- Race in America

[Author Name(s), First M. Last, Omit Titles and Degrees]

[Institutional Affiliation(s)]

Author Note

[Include any grant/funding information and a complete correspondence address.]

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The Talk- Race in America, is a documentary directed and produced by Sam Pollard, was telecasted on PBS which pertains to an increasingly essential discussion taking place in communities across the country between Black & Latino Parents and their children about their interaction with law enforcing bodies and police. I found six different stories in the film, each offering different perspectives on how the community is affected by violence and racism in America.

The documentary makes my attention towards an idea of Double-Consciousness. The term was first used by W. E. B. Du Bois in his book “The Souls of Black Folk”. He described “double consciousness” as a peculiar sense, in which the individuals look at themselves through the eyes of others and critically measure their souls from worlds perspective of contempt, amused and pity. In my opinion, Double-Consciousness is a conflict of perception and reality experienced by minority groups in domineering society.

In the third segment of the documentary, Mohammed Kamal from Ghetto gave his opinion that he could not save his children from racism, even if he is doing nothing wrong, earning a good amount of money and living in a well-off neighborhood. There is a reflection of Double-Consciousness in his thoughts that he thinks of himself and his family as good as any other but not in the eyes of society they are living in. Another segment features a mother of 12 years old boy Tamir Rice, who was shot dead by police just for playing with a toy gun. I am sure if he was a white child, he remained alive. Samaria was Double-Conscious in her thoughts. She assumed the world would see at her 12-year-old son a kid, but the officer that shot him thought he was a man above 20. I feel that this is possibly the most painful aspect of “the talk,” that the people of color acknowledging their children that they are living in an immoral world where they are always judged with suspicion just because of their skin color.