[Name of the Writer]

[Name of Instructor]

[Subject]

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Race and Ethnicity Relations

 This chapter reveals some eye opening facts that are sure to surprise many Americans who are under the impression that the rights and privileges they enjoy are available for people of other races in America. This is clearly not the case and although the situation has improved over the decades, remnants of our racist past remain in the hearts and minds of many Americans. Joseph Healey drives home this point with some incredible statistics such as the fact that the average median income disparity between Non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics is more than 13,000 dollars!

 Healey emphasizes the dire situation of certain marginalized groups that have very little chance of escaping the shackles of poverty because they are discriminated on multiple accounts. I find it absolutely appalling that Latino women are especially discriminated and marginalized for being women as well as non-Whites. This particular combination condemns these families to an endless cycle of poverty which is extremely hard for them to break out of. We tend to forget that some Hispanic groups were present in the North American continent even before the foundation of Jamestown. This fact alone ought to make us respect people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and languages. Last time I checked, the Declaration of Independence mentioned inalienable rights of all peoples. So, it is the primary responsibility for the people of America to respect the wishes of the Founding Fathers and help safeguard not just legal rights of Hispanic Americans but social and political as well.

 Healey portrays the difficulties faced by millions of people across America: despite being citizens of USA, they are not treated as equal citizens in their own country. The thing that bothers me the most is the apathy of the general public towards immigrants. If we can help them assimilate and get jobs so they can adapt to the environment and culture quicker, we should give them the chance. It is my belief that diversity is the single biggest asset of our nation and we cannot stand tall amongst the plethora of great nations if we do not help all of the citizens of America regardless of race, gender and language.