

The topic relating to the connections or relationships between the persistent surveillance system and our focus on identity and race within systems is an interesting conversation. It is a connection between two topics I briefly discussed in my journal response from last week. Thinking about and formulating my opinion on the matter was difficult, but a necessary one especially for privileged white people in America.

Throughout this class, there has been an emphasis on perspectives. Analyzing, understanding, and dissecting one's perspective proves crucial in analyzing the system as whole. We have learned there are numerous views people can have on a system. These views are shaped by who they are, what they experience, what they value, and what they envision for the future among many other things. In the case of aerial surveillance and its association to identity and race, we discover there are certain aspects of the surveillance methods that impact certain groups of people more/disproportionately. These impacts may not originally be understood by someone like me. This is frustrating and something I am consciously trying to change, but unfortunately is human nature. When I think about a system like this, I think initially about how it can help/protect/better me and my way of life. My brain is wired to quickly sort through the positive and negative impacts on me first. When doing this, I concluded that a system like this, because I am doing nothing wrong as the podcast quoted, would be a positive thing to have in my life and the society I live in. This does not take a wholistic system-wide view like we have learned to do in this class.

My opinion has changed as I have refocused my view to be less self-centered and more understanding of the big picture and all the actors involved. We learned about the problems we face in this country and the implicit biases many of us have. The ignorance that fosters these biases we experience is the same root for my misunderstanding on the possible negative impacts of a surveillance system like the one we learned about via the podcast. Living in northern Wisconsin and now on a college campus in Madison, I have never been exposed to violent crime luckily. My opinions about the positive possibilities from a program like this, come from what I have experienced on the news. Furthermore, I have been privileged while growing up. Never was my family shunned to a certain location in the city, segregated during simple everyday activities, or profiled by the police. It is hard for me to understand what this is like and the emotion that likely accompanies it. By attending the University of Wisconsin – Madison, I have been subjected to a wide variety of opinions and much more diversity than I ever witnessed in my hometown. While it is still hard for me to understand, I have forced myself to learn. I want to know and understand what it is like so I can shape my opinions moving forward. While an aerial system of surveillance would not affect me likely, it would disproportionately affect those of color. I say it would and not maybe would because as much as we try to change our country's racism and segregation, there are intuitional aspects still in place that will inevitably lead to further unequal exploitation of minority groups in our country.

The connection between institutional racism and unfair police initiatives is there and needs to be proclaimed. For people like myself with backgrounds like my own, our first reaction does not include these minorities. Educating privileged people, often the people who make these important decisions, is vital for the future of our country. Our generation, a progressive

generation, can be the ones to begin the long process of reversing all the injustice that have been done before us. It starts with a deep understanding of how a simple crime stopping aerial device can racially be misappropriated. The biggest area any of us can make a difference, is at the polls. Voting for stewards of diversity and change will help begin to reshape America and the sad hole we have dug ourselves in with people of color and minorities.