

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods. This exemplar work was a final project for “World Health: Challenges and Opportunities,” a General Education course at Harvard College taught by GHELI Faculty Director Sue J. Goldie. For this creative assessment designed with support from GHELI, students systematically analyze a societal health challenge they care about and create a “real world” product intended to influence policy or motivate change.

Abstract

A series of graphics for an Instagram Reel calling for better gun policy to reduce the disproportionate rate of firearm homicides killing Black men in the U.S.

Artist

Ayah Hamed (2024)

Caption

Gun violence is a severe health issue in the United States, drastically contributing to premature death. Statistics show that 42,967 individuals passed away from gun-related injuries in 2023. Gun-related deaths have risen approximately by 43% between 2010 and 2020. Among the gun violence-related deaths, 35.26% are composed of homicide cases (NIHCM, 2024). When looking at the victims of these cases, it is apparent that Black men are disproportionately being impacted by this health issue—homicide is the number one cause of death for Black, non-Hispanic, males aged 1-44 in the United States. The primary goal of this product and message is to inspire action against gun violence targeting Black men.

Artist Lens

Homicide is the number 1 cause of death for Black men aged 1-44 years. Time and time again in history, we see innocent Black men being brutally killed by police brutality and policies that are implemented against people of color, such as Stand Your Ground. My targeted audience is the general civil society, and I hope to garner awareness of abolishing policies that ultimately harm our Black male community. I hope this media project will encourage citizens to call their policymakers and advocate for better gun policies. I specifically chose to present my media project as art visuals in the form of an Instagram reel because I knew I wanted a visual representation of the issue to evoke emotion. I also wanted to show the victims of gun violence because they are humans just like us, not just statistics. Moreover, I believe social media can reach many various audiences and communities and is very accessible compared to a book or pamphlet. In my media project, I also incorporated a lot of questions throughout the post because I wanted viewers to think about the issue and not just passively scroll.

Media

Digital

DO THESE OBJECTS LOOK SUSPICIOUS TO YOU?



**WHAT IF THE PERSON WHO HAD THESE ITEMS
WAS BLACK?**



**TRAYVON MARTIN, 17 YEARS OLD, A VICTIM
OF STAND YOUR GROUND**

PHOTO CRED: AP PHOTO/MARTIN FAMILY.

**WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE FOR PLAYING LOUD
MUSIC AT A GAS STATION?**



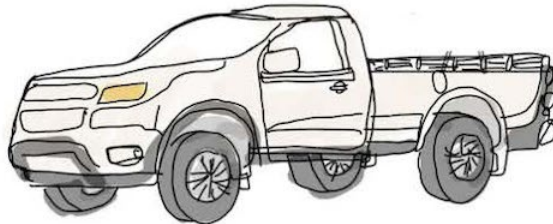
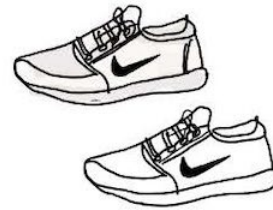
**WHAT IF THE PERSON PLAYING THE MUSIC WAS
BLACK?**



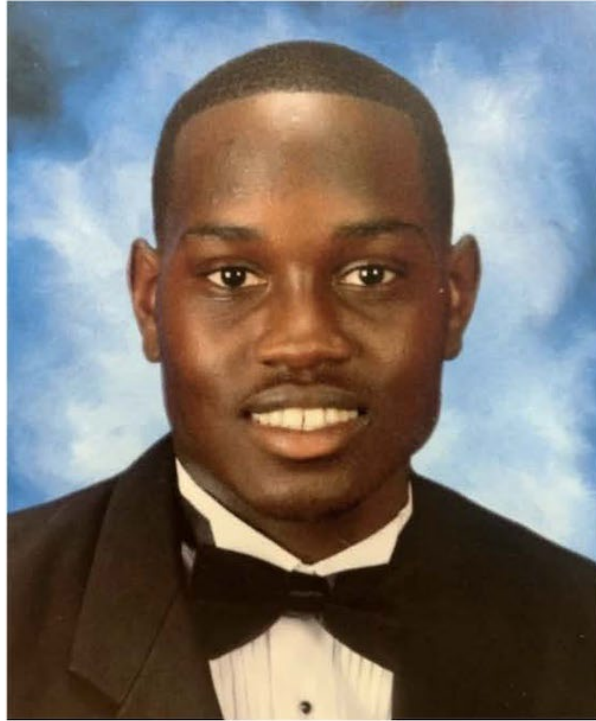
**JORDAN DAVIS, 17 YEARS OLD, A VICTIM OF
STAND YOUR GROUND**

PHOTO CRED: THE JORDAN DAVIS FOUNDATION

**IF A PERSON RUNNING WORE THIS, WOULD YOU
FEEL ENDANGERED?**



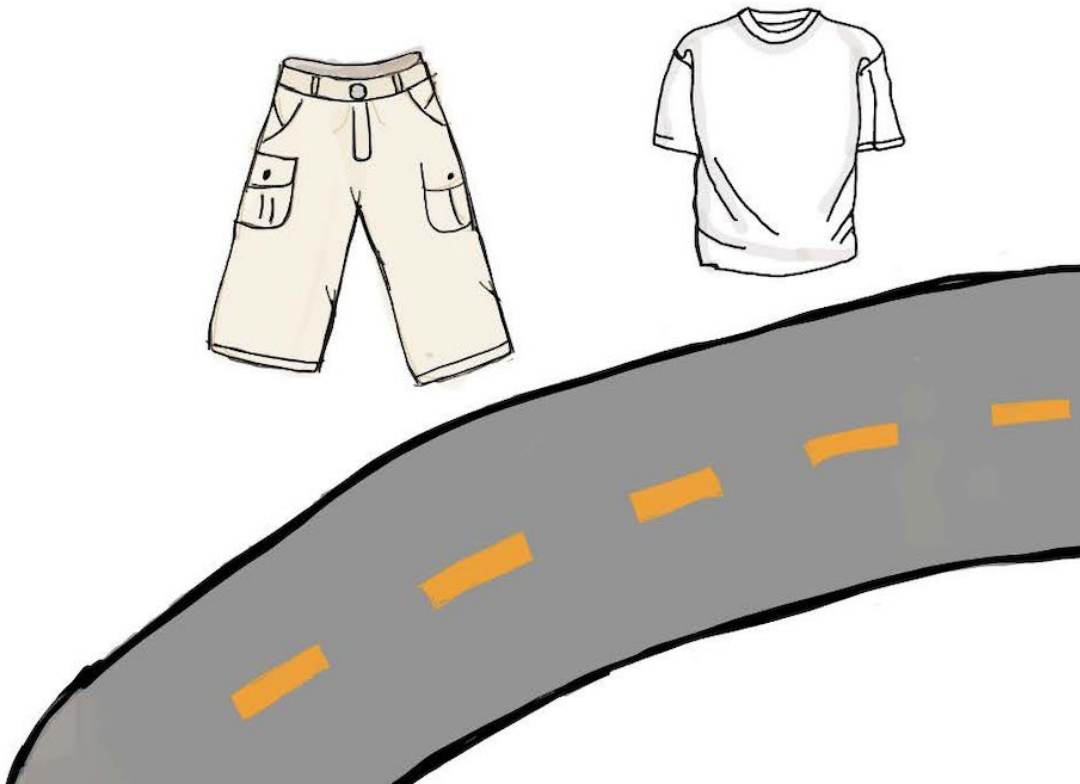
WHAT IF THE PERSON RUNNING WAS BLACK?



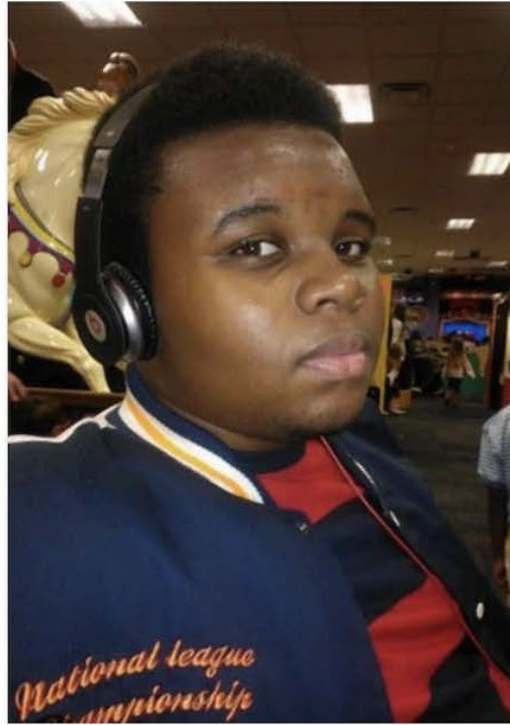
**AHMAUD ARBERY, 25 YEARS OLD, A VICTIM OF
GEORGIA'S CITIZEN ARREST LAW**

PHOTO CRED: GETTY

**IF A PERSON, WEARING THIS OUTFIT, WAS
WALKING DOWN THE STREET, WOULD YOU FEEL
ENDANGERED?**



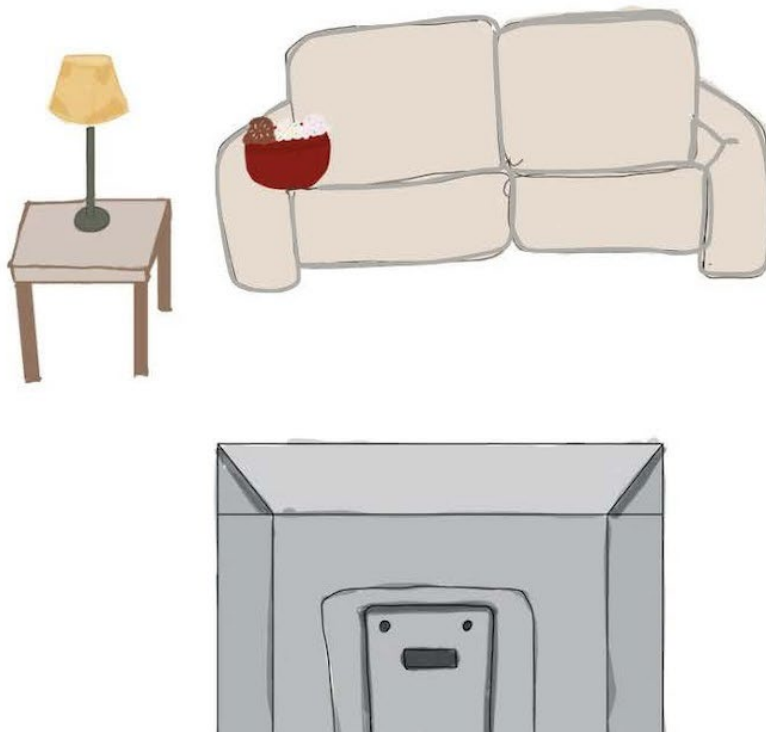
WHAT IF THE PERSON WALKING WAS BLACK?



**MICHAEL BROWN, 18 YEARS OLD, A VICTIM
OF POLICE BRUTALITY**

PHOTO CRED: FACEBOOK

**WOULD YOU SHOOT SOMEONE FOR EATING
ICE CREAM IN THEIR OWN HOME?**

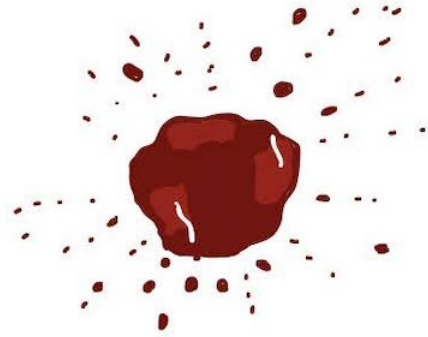


WHAT IF THE PERSON WAS BLACK?



**BOTHAM JEAN, 26 YEARS OLD, A VICTIM
OF POLICE BRUTALITY**

PHOTO CRED: BOTHAM JEAN FOUNDATION



**FIRE ARM RELATED HOMICIDE IS THE
LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN BLACK MEN AGED
1-44 YEARS. LET'S DO BETTER.**

