

Differences between Siblings

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### Abstract

During President Obama's tenure in office, he placed considerable emphasis on college graduation and the gap between black and white students. For him, the completion rate of African Americans was critical to the overall national college success rate. With the newly incoming Secretary of Education under Donald Trump, considerable thought should be given to educational policies and programs that might improve college graduation rates. Within Trump's administration, policy makers should develop programs that examine how they might improve completion rates. This paper reports the findings of a study that points to the direction of future educational programs that could be designed for improving graduations rates within the African American community.

### Differences between Siblings

There have been numerous studies on the various causes of why African Americans fail to successfully complete college. During the tenure of President Obama, considerable emphasis was given to the low graduation rate and gap between black and white students in college. With the newly incoming administration under President Donald Trump, substantial thought should be given to educational programs and policies concerning how to improve college graduation rates; especially, within the African American community. For President Obama, the completion rate of African Americans was critical to the overall national college success rate. It is imperative for present policy makers in President Trump's administration to develop programs that examine how they might improve the completion rate of students in college.

This paper presents a few possible causes for the low completion rates of among African American males in completing college. The paper explores possible causes of the low completion rates within a Historically Black College and University setting by presenting a comparative study of two Introductory Psychology classes. In this comparative study, a lack of structure and discipline seems to emerge as a crucial consideration within the African American community in regards to successfully completing college. The low success rates can be linked to various dynamics within the African American community. These dynamics contribute to the lack of success in higher education achievement among black male students. In fact, according to one source, there are more African American males in prison than there are in college. For example, by the end of the year 2000, while 603,032 Black males were enrolled in college, 791,600 Black males were in prison. The article declared that the cause of this finding has been associated with the harsh criminal justice policies that have been in existence for over two

decades (Stop the Drug War, 2002). Thus, present policy makers under President Trump's administration must develop programs that examine how they might improve the completion rate of African American students in college by examining the equality of the criminal justice policies.

Another dynamic attributed to the low success rate of African Americans in higher education is associated and connected to their economic situation. Luby (2015), reported five ways that both Blacks and Hispanics trail Whites in the United States. The report presented a snapshot of the median household income, the average household wealth, home ownership, unemployment, and poverty. First, she reported that Black households have an average income of \$35,400, Hispanic households' average income is \$42,500, and White households average income is \$60,250. Secondly, she reported that the average wealth among Black households are \$11,030, among Hispanic households are \$13,730, and among White households are \$134,230. Thirdly, she emphasized that while home ownership among Blacks is at 42.2%, among Hispanics 46.1%, and among Whites 71.9%. Fourthly, she declared that the unemployment rate among Blacks are as high as 9.2%; however, among Hispanics it is as high as 6.3%, but among Whites, the unemployment rate it is at 4.4%. Finally, Luby stated that the poverty rate among the three groups are equally diversified; thus, stating that among Blacks the rate is 26.2%, while among Hispanics, the rate is 23.6%, and among Whites, the rate is as low as 10.1%. The study was understood to have been conducted as a random national sample of 1,951 adults which was polled in August through October 2015. Not only must the present policy makers under President Trump's administration seek to develop programs that examine how they might improve the equality of criminal justice policies, but they must also find ways to address the economic

disproportion and inconsistency among minorities. Julia Isaacs (2007), presented an article on the economic mobility of Black and White families. She stated that in 2004, the median family income among Blacks ranging from ages 30 to 39 was only 58% in contrast to White families. Within this age group, she reported that the average Black family earned \$35,000 a year compared to the average White family that earned \$60,000 a year. She then specified that in this astounding statistic, there has not been any development of change in the reduction of this huge gap between Black and White families in recent years.

Feierman (2014), reported that young African American males were falling at an enormous rate behind their peers in the classroom setting. In his report, he stated that only 54% of African Americans graduated from high school in contrast to 75% of whites and Asian Americans. He also identified that African American students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade were 2.5 times more likely to be suspended than Whites students. His report outlined that in the year 2000, twelfth-grade reading scores among Blacks were lower than any other race and ethnic groups in America. Thus, substantiating that these staggering statistics in our high schools have a direct correlation that resulted in the lack of Blacks entering into higher education. Hence, adding on more things for this current administration to consider in making better policies and programs to close the gap. Wood and Harrison (2014) presented a study that examined the college choices of African American males attending community colleges. Their study indicated that the rationale for Black males who attended community colleges did so based upon, “having a degree in their chosen field, the coursework/curriculum, job placement record, availability of financial aid, and academic reputation.”

## References

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