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WRT 205
Annotation #6

The urgency of intersectionality

In the TED Talk video, “The Urgency of Intersectionality,” Kimberlé Crenshaw starts her speech by asking people to stand up and sit down when she lists a name they are familiar with. First were the names of recent black men who were victims of police violence, which some recognized. However, the second list of names happened to be killed black women, and out of the remaining standing, only a couple of people sat down. This introduced Crenshaw’s main argument: We tend to forget abused women due to the fact that there are no “frames” in society that can uphold their importance, hence why the news does not start by mentioning them, hence why only a small percentage of a huge audience recognized their names. Crenshaw then introduces her concept of intersectionality. Crenshaw explains multiple stories of black women being killed, all while doing every day things. She also mentions the other “intersections” these women could have had, such as a disability, being a part of the LGBTQ+ community, homeless, etc. The audience did not know about these women because if a problem is not seen, it can not be fixed.

Although I already mentioned ideologies presented by Crenshaw in previous annotations, I wanted to incorporate this video and highly encourage all that see this to watch it. I wanted to include this video because it perfectly demonstrates how oppression can go past the workforce and be fatal. The urgency to fix gender bias, racial bias, and any bias that results in marginalization is dire. With no “frames” in society for these women, our structures and systems need to be re-evaluated. Multiple biases towards minorities create an intersection of marginalization, which was created by the prejudice and inability to see issues that have lasted centuries. If Luke Zaphir watched this video, I would assume he would say, “this is a prime opportunity to recognize bias and transform perceptions and do something good.” I believe that action first starts with acknowledgment, but acknowledgment can only come to be when frameworks allow for it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o>