

Chidimma Okwara

Mrs. Pumphrey

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One Word Project: Stereotype

Positive and negative stereotypes are found all over the world and have made extensive impacts. A stereotype, meaning "an image perpetuated without change," was first recorded in 1850. These days, the social definition of a stereotype is an simplified conception invested with special meaning and held in common by members of a group. Stereotypes have changed the world for the worst in the opinions of most of mankind. Cliches have unfairly characterized people into inaccurate, and sometimes harmful, groups.

I chose to study the word stereotype for my One Word Project because I'm interested in life before and after segregation and prejudice. I want to understand how cliches have affected the world. Stereotypes are significant to me because I have experienced them negatively several times. It bothers me when people underestimate my intelligence because of my age and my skin color, but it's satisfying to prove their simplified conceptions wrong.

The novel, To Kill a Mockingbird, is a perfect example of racial stereotyping. In this book, a African American man named Tom Robinson is accused of raping a Caucasian woman. Even though Tom is obviously innocent of the crime, people believe the white woman's story because of their prejudice towards African Americans. The hatred Mr. Robinson had to endure was unimaginable and when he tried to escape his unfair containment, he was shot to death. In To Kill a Mockingbird, Tom Robinson is framed with rape, and racism and stereotypes ended up killing him.

The first product I will make is a movie. In my movie, I plan on depicting how stereotypes have affected people; I also plan on showing how stereotypes have affected mankind negatively. The second product I'm making is a board game. The board game will have questions about the word, stereotype, and it's affects on mankind. My board game will also inquire on things mentioned in my film, so the two products can be connected.

In the future, I see mankind becoming less insensitive and I project that stereotypes will become less harmful. I believe more people will begin to understand that some sterecotypes are hurtful and prejudice will subside. Negative stereotypes would become less common, and stereotypes would start helping educational and employment systems. For example, diligent workers would be given higher positions in the work-place instead of being left in entry-level positions. Stereotypes have the potential to make or break the world!