

The speakers during this “webinar” speak a lot about what it’s like in “Black America”. “Black America” is the experience African Americans in this country have to deal with, all because of the color of their skin regardless of how long they have been here just like everyone else. Some of them even longer than those like Irish or Italian immigrants, African Americans who built this country just as much as the white colonizers who stand so prominent in history. Slaves that were worked and tortured, treated like wild animals helped built and worked for this country just as much as the white folk. Even once freed, they stuck around with those who had kept them in bondage just because of all the work they put into building this country. The continent of North America and the culture of the white folk that enslaved them influenced their culture so much, it has become one fundamentally different of what it once was when based in Africa. One that was worth sticking around for.

The powerful African American women presenting in this webinar speak not only about this past, but the activism today that is based in that hypocrisy of being built in freedom, while still finding others enslaved and remnants of discrimination against those with a different skin color. Going deeper into our University’s history too, about the fact that who we are named after owned and enslaved African American’s but was still the President of the United States, so steadied against diversity and equity. Racism is inbred into this country. Our current president, 200 years later, is a white nationalist. A white nationalist given a PLATFORM through things like the bully pulpit to broadcast his thoughts on racism. Such a man is even trying to defund schools because of the want of the eradication of whitewashed history being taught to the youth of America, instead of the truth of these situations.

In relation to me, I don’t suffer the struggle or weight of “Black America”. However, I am a strong advocate. Many of the things Nicole Hannah-Jones spoke about I have discussed with my peers and adults of my community, through my graduation speech. My community and high school are one of the most diverse I have ever seen, with probably close to 70-80% of the population being African American. I come from a background where I have heard these struggles from my classmates and friends, and I am sympathetic in their struggle. One of the reasons for coming to GW (other than the scholarship money) was to be closer to the politics of this area and lifestyle. In my speech I talk about the struggles of the man in the white house, and the struggle of the people I grew up around especially in a tumultuous socio-politico time. It’s just a shame at this point that people cannot accept and come to terms with how regardless of how we like we are all the same.