**Social Problem Analysis:** *Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement*

Dubbed the new ‘civil rights movement’, #BlackLivesMatter launched a transformative grassroots movement that moved from social media to the streets across the U.S. As news and images of the senseless deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Gardner, Michael Brown, and others spread in the media, a new generation of civil rights activist came together demanding institutional change. From scheduled marches, to assembled ‘die-ins’ and to heated rallies across the country, protestors and communities pushed the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter into a worldwide rally cry for justice. This is the real story of brave young people who have found their voice to lead a powerful social movement. Now these activists face the daunting challenge of turning protest into lasting change.

**Instructions:**

After watching the film, in 3 pages minimum (please do not exceed 6 pages), answer the following questions in an essay format using APA formatting/citation style. **You must include at least 3 outside resources (scholarly article, book, newspaper, etc.) and some specific examples/moments from the film to highlight your answers and support your arguments**. I **DO NOT** want you to summarize the film! The main purpose of this assignment is for you to apply theoretical concepts/ideologies and sociological concepts in critically analyzing the film’s content using your sociological imagination and personal insight. A rubric will be posted on Canvas with detailed grade distributions and classifications. Your paper will be graded on the following:

* Proper formatting and grammar/sentence structure (cover page, 12 point font, Times New Roman, and 1 inch margins, reference page, double spacing should all be used).
* The proper application of theoretical/sociological concepts, ideas and themes along with specific examples/moments from the film to highlight arguments.
* Answering all the questions in an insightful/analytical manner properly applying the sociological imagination.

**QUESTIONS: Please do not feel obligated to answer the questions in the order given.**

1. What are some of the parallels (in tactics, motivations, experiences, etc.) between the Civil Rights Movements of the 1950s/60s and the current BLM movement? Are these comparisons legitimate or exaggerated? Explain.
2. In your opinion, does violent civil disobedience have more impact/power than nonviolent civil disobedience (or vice versa) as means to an end? Why, why not?
   1. How might violent acts of civil disobedience contribute to the debate of moral ethics of black ‘rage’ and perpetuating unfounded stereotypes?
3. Do you think that raising awareness through social media translates into making a change in the world? Could it? What are some issues you see with this method (i.e. hashtag activism)?
4. Describe the legacy of slavery and dehumanization within the context of the BLM movement.
5. According to the film and your research, what are some of the demands (purposes) that BLM activists have made? How have these been misconstrued (misinterpreted) by larger media outlets, that is, what is the role of the media industry in influencing national conversations about race and racism?
6. What broader policy changes might address the systemic problems highlighted by the BLM movement? What other reforms do you think might be necessary other than just policing reforms/accountability?