

America in Black & White

Percentage of Americans who believe more changes are necessary to achieve racial equality: 61%

Percentage of blacks who say more changes are necessary: 88%

Percentage of whites who say the same: 53%

Percentage of whites who think that protests in response to police violence mostly bring attention to the issue in a negative way: 58%

Percentage of blacks who think the same: 17%

Percentage of whites who feel they can always or often trust the police to do what is right for them and their community: 71%

Percentage of blacks who think the same: 32%

Percentage of whites who think that white people benefit a great deal or a fair amount from advantages that black people do not have: 46%

Percentage of black respondents who said the same: 92%

Percentage of Americans polled in 2017 who view racism as a big problem: 58%

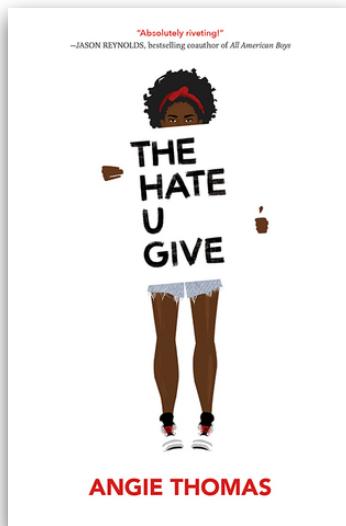
Percentage of Americans who said the same in 2009: 25%

Percentage of U.S. newlyweds in 2015 who had a spouse of a different race or ethnicity: 17%

Percentage of U.S. newlyweds in 1967 who had the same: 3%

Percentage of the freshmen class of the current 115th Congress who are non-white: 34%

stats linked to sources in online guide:
collegereads.cofc.edu



About the Book & Author

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, Thomas's story about an ordinary girl in extraordinary circumstances addresses issues of racism and police violence with intelligence, heart, and unflinching honesty. Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter navigates between the poverty-stricken neighborhood she has grown up in and the upper-crust suburban prep school she attends. Her life is up-ended when she is the sole witness to a police officer shooting her best friend, Khalil, who turns out to have been unarmed during the confrontation. As Starr finds herself even more torn between the two vastly different worlds she inhabits, she also has to contend with speaking her truth and, in the process, trying to stay alive herself. Angie Thomas was born, raised, and still resides in Jackson, Mississippi. Her debut novel *The Hate U Give* is a #1 New York Times Bestseller, and has received starred reviews from 8 literary journals and will be published in over 20 countries. Thomas holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Belhaven University and an unofficial degree in Hip Hop. She is an inaugural winner of the Walter Dean Myers Grant 2015, awarded by We Need Diverse Books. [adapted from [author website](#)]

Engaging *The Hate U Give*

- ◆ In many ways, *The Hate U Give* is a book of extremes: black and white, protesters and police, ghetto and suburbia. But there is also a lot of gray area. Which characters, scenes, and settings complicate this more strict sense of opposition, and what role do these complicating factors serve?
- ◆ Thomas has said that she hopes her book gives readers a deeper understanding of the fear, anger, and sadness that racial injustice causes. How did the novel help you achieve this understanding?
- ◆ As Starr navigates very different social spaces at home and school, we see her performing the social practice of “code-switching” as she adapts her dress, disposition, and speech for different audiences. Explore a moment in the novel where you notice this practice. How, in your own life, have you had to perform a kind of code-switching as well? What was at stake when you did so?
- ◆ Near the end of the novel, Starr connects the fictional tragedy of Khalil’s killing with a string of

real-world tragedies involving violence against unarmed African-Americans: “It’s also about Oscar. Aiyana. Trayvon. Rekia. Michael. Eric. Tamir. John. Ezell. Sandra. Freddie. Alton. Philando.” How have these tragedies affected the way you and your community understand issues of race and identity?

- ◆ The statistics in the column to the left are framed largely around perceptions of black and white survey respondents regarding race. How do you think other minorities fit into the picture? What about other demographic categories such as age or political affiliation?
- ◆ How do you think Thomas’s novel can be used on our campus to encourage honest and healing conversations about race, equality, policing, and identity?
- ◆ Thomas’s novel concludes with Starr embracing her role as someone whose empowered voice can make a difference in the world. Which social justice issues most strongly compel you to act? In the years ahead, how do you see yourself becoming a change agent?

Continuing the Conversation on Race and Identity

Thomas’s novel reflects important contemporary conversations about race, justice, and identity. To continue this conversation, check out these resources, whose logos are linked on the online version of this reading companion @ CollegeReads.CofC.edu. [captions adapted from each resource]



Ever find yourself in a conversation about race and identity where you just get stuck? [Code Switch can help](#). For these journalists of color, this isn't just the work they do. It's the lives they lead.



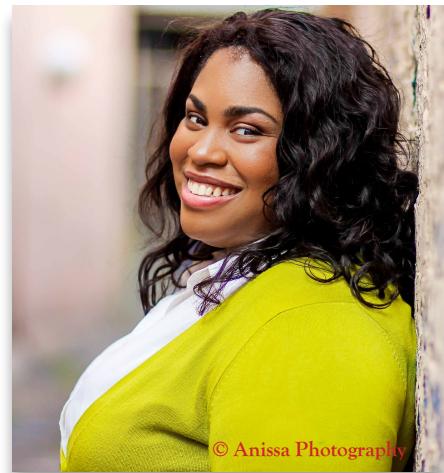
A Conversation on Race: a series of short films by independent filmmakers from [New York Times Op-Docs](#).



For black Americans, the effects of racism are felt daily. [These TED talks](#) take an honest look at everyday realities and suggest a way forward.



[PEW Charitable Trusts Research Survey](#) on perceptions of race in America.



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