

Students in the summer 2020 cross-cultural programs, which were modified because of the COVID-19 pandemic, gave final presentations as part of their course requirement. Senior Tim Jones, a business administration major with a minor in recreational leadership and sports studies, had planned to travel to Ohio with Professor Vi Dutcher and other classmates to explore and interact with rural Amish culture and African-American and Hispanic Mennonite communities in Cleveland. As part of his final presentation, Jones wrote a poem that his classmates particularly appreciated.

It is published here with Jones's permission.

"Does it Matter"

Does the color of my skin matter? Does it matter that I don't look like you? Does it matter that I don't sound like you? Does Juneteenth matter? Does it matter that inequality has been present for 400 plus years?

Does it matter that the system is flawed? Does it matter that some children feel the need to hide when they see the police riding by? Does it matter that Black men are 2.5 times more likely than white men to be killed by police during their lifetime?

Does it matter that George Floyd lost his life in broad daylight because the system had its knee on his neck for almost 9 minutes? Does it matter that hundreds of Black men are killed yearly because of police brutality?

Does it matter that mothers have to bury their child prematurely because of police brutality? Does it matter that young boys and girls won't grow up knowing their father because of police brutality? Does it matter that I am afraid when I get pulled over by a police officer?

Does it matter that I fear for my future children that have not taken a single breath on this planet? Again.. Does the color of my skin matter? Does it matter that I don't look like you? Does it matter that I don't sound like you?

Why can't we just let equality reign? Or does that not matter?

Black Lives Matter, They Really Do.