

# Day 9- Justice

The Green Girls

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# Shailene Woodley Is Forest



The forest takes away a lot of pollution and lets us breathe, yet we destroy it; and for what? So we can build houses or farms? Is that a good enough excuse to be taking away one of the only things that can reverse climate change? Because I don't think it is. We need to protect our natural ecosystems before they can no longer provide ecosystem services for us. Humans need to remember- Nature doesn't need us, but we need nature. If we destroy the earth, it will destroy us too. The earth is so much more powerful than all of the humans on the earth combined. Now back to the social injustices after that quick tangent!

# Social Injustices in TC Williams



The thing that comes to mind is AP courses when I think about social injustices. It is true that anyone can sign up for AP classes, but there is a prominent white population in every AP class, even though African Americans and Hispanics the majority at TC. Why is this? Well, a lot of minorities (speaking in United States terms, not TC) are discouraged from taking AP classes. Counselors will see my schedule and think, “Wow, she’s so smart! She’s taking six AP classes”, and will look at my friend Lauren’s, an African American, schedule and think, “Can you handle all of these hard courses? I think you should drop a few.” I kid you not, this has happened many times. This is why year after year, many AP classes are mostly white. Minorities are urged against taking hard classes because they are looked down upon or “not smart enough” to take them.

# Why does this injustice matter?

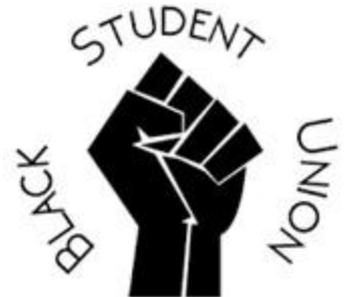
This social injustice in TC matters because everyone has the right to an equal education; everyone should be able to take whatever classes they want to take without feeling looked down upon and inferior. Just because someone is a different race, gender, sexuality, etc. from someone with light skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes doesn't mean they're not as talented, smart, or worthy of praise, higher education, and opportunities. This injustice, after all of the movements, protests, lives lost for it, should not be happening in this century.

# Changemaker

This injustice is hard to become proactive for; however, I pledge and promise to get equal education opportunities for everyone at TC- no matter their race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality. I see the lack of fairness and equality everyday when I walk into my first period class and I see three people in a class of thirty who are African American or Hispanic. Our school needs a leader in this movement in the next school year to talk to rising sophomores and juniors about their opportunities, and make it known that AP classes are for everyone to take; they are for people who want to work hard to achieve academic goals and to pursue a higher education. I want to talk to those upcoming underclassmen about all of the opportunities that they have, as well as encourage them to take more AP classes because they are fun, interesting, and challenging.

# The 4-1-1

For many years, there have been clubs and organizations dedicated to educating minorities at our school of the opportunities they have in the world. One example is Latinas Leading Tomorrow. This club works towards preparing Latinas for classes, college, and changing the world after college. Another organization is the Black Student Union. This organization works towards getting equal opportunities for African Americans and working together to pursue their dreams. Although we have many clubs reaching out to minorities at our school, there still seems to be the problems of AP classes consisting of mostly white students.



# The Plan

Our action plan:

- Talk to the counselors and our principal now and at the end of the school year (because that is when people choose classes) about encouraging everyone to participate in AP classes if they have good enough grades.
- Set up a booth at lunch with a list of all of the AP classes people can take and motivate students to take the classes they are interested in and not necessarily core classes like History and English (we want to start small and gradually expand as years go on)
- Inspire students through education to take classes on what they want to do as a career so they can see if it is the best fit for them
- Create a club dedicated to study groups, where after school, people with AP classes who have never taken one before can work with other students and mentors who have previously taken the class to get the help they need to succeed in a course (or multiple courses)

Our next step as AP students is to set up this club/organization and help students prosper this year, as well as continuing to help students in following years!