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“Striving of the Negro People”

As reading through “Striving of the Negro People” I felt deeply about it and I felt the emotion and that’s when it drew me in. The author W. E. B. DU BOIS felt “the unequal power relations between blacks and whites in American society” (Dubois, p.g. 141). He goes out of his way to stand up for what he feels is right and feels black people are just living in white people’s world. The main issue of this piece is that black Americans are being denied the right the vote and are not getting the rights they deserve. DuBois brings so much emotion out from this and makes you feel his sadness on this topic through just reading it. He says, “for the world I longed for, and all its dazzling opportunities, were theirs, not mine” (Dubois, p.g. 142). This makes it seem like he doesn’t get to live his life freely and just feels like he doesn’t have a purpose. Overall, black Americans are being denied the rights of white Americans, blacks shouldn’t feel shut out from the world, and it is important to speak up for this topic.

This is such an important topic that needs to be aggressed. They say in “Striving of the Negro People”, whites would approach Dubois as “I know an excellent colored man in my town” or “do not these Southern outrages make your blood boil?” (Dubois, p.g. 142) He let these sayings just pass him and he would have to “reduce the boiling to a simmer” (Dubois, p.g. 142). Basically, he is having to hold his tongue and whatever they say goes. I feel Dubois is trying to get a crossed that he wants things to change and that whites need to not only just see his views and understand that it is important that black Americans get the same equal rights and respect as they do. This brings out a lot of pathos because it brings out emotion and they effect the reader in

a way where it makes it feel this way. I think the readers would be people that love emotion and feeling through reading. Also, I think this is for the same people that feel the day he does with not feeling worthy or equal. He said, “It dawned upon me with a certain suddenness that I was different from the others; or like, mayhap, in heart and life and longing, but shut out from their world by a vast veil” (p.g. 142). I feel he also wants to get his point out to white people and start to evoke change.

Overall, discourse and discourse communities can shape peoples outlook on the real world and start to create change. A discourse community is a group of people who share a set of discourses, understood as basic values and assumptions, and ways of communicating about those goals.

Reference

<https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/554972/web-dubois-striving-negro/>