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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” (W.E.B Du Bois, 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. Dubois was born on February 23, 1868, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He did his studies at Harvard University. Back then it was hard just to get into Harvard being African American, but he was also the first African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard, in 1895. He was best known for how extensively he wrote, and during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, being known as the best spokesperson for African American.

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” (W.E.B Du Bois, 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 addressed. 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?” (W.E.B Du Bois, p.g. 142) He let these sayings just pass him and he would have to “reduce the boiling to a simmer” (W.E.B Du Bois, 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” (W.E.B Du Bois, p.g. 142). I feel he also wants to get his point out to white people and start to evoke change.

The African American’s are bringing denied the rights of white Americans. Also, they just feel different than others because they are being shut out from everything and don’t get to share and state how they feel, like their options don’t matter. This is true because he says, “why did God make me an outcast and a stranger in mine own house?” (W.E.B Du Bois, p.g. 143). A human feeling that they are unworthy and feeling outcasted is one of the worst feelings in the world. I’ve been there, and it is bullying, but this is to a worse extent that shouldn’t be tolerated. He doesn’t even feel comfortable in his own body and home. His main goal out of this is that he is trying to get a crossed that he wants things to change and that whites need to not only just see me feel and understand that it is important that black Americans get the same equal rights and respect as they do.

Overall, discourse and discourse communities can shape peoples outlook on the real world and start to create change. Throughout this Du Bois reeled me in by using pathos to keep the emotions telling the story and to break the barrier of this racist times. It is shown here that deep down in these white supremacies souls that if they put themselves in the shoes of the ones they look down upon and see their culture and how they aren't different then themselves the selfishness will be washed out from within them. 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/>

W.E.B Du Bois, “Striving of the Negro People,” Plessy V. Ferguson, Edited by Brook Thomas, 1897, pg. 140-149.