



Walk it Like You Talk It

Understanding Youth Behavior and Using
Positive Language in Juvenile Court

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Goals for this Session

Understand Youth Behavior

Learn Affirming Language

Let's Do This!

Ask Any Question

Every Question

All the Questions

Talk!

But Use the Chat if You Want

Have an Open-mind and Open Heart

Step Up and Step Back

Others?

SEEING

= what's =
underneath:



A RESOURCE FOR
**Understanding Behavior
& Using Language**
IN JUVENILE COURT

Adolescence



- Impulsivity
- Short term time orientation
- Sensation seeking/risk taking
- Peer influence
- "Reasonable Child"

Race/Ethnicity



- False perception of age/culpability
- False perception of threat/dangerous
- Experience of policing as trauma
- "Reasonable Black Child"

Trauma



- Hypervigilance
- Hyperarousal

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Expression



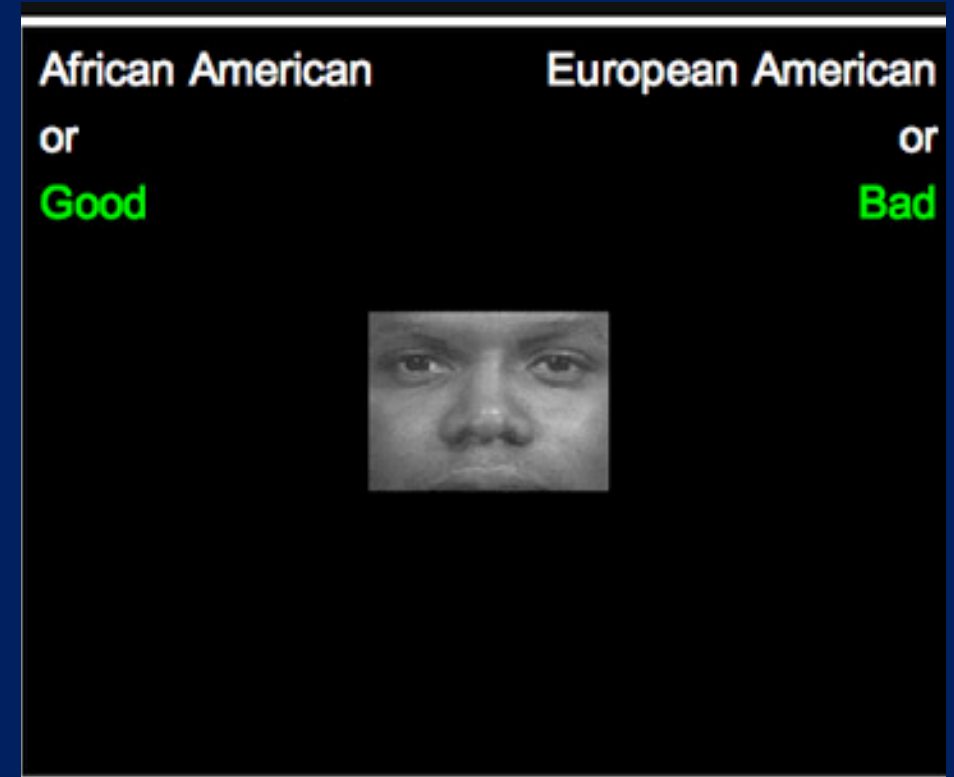
- Paternalism
- Imposition of false gender norms
- Bias

Always remember intersectionality!!!

Implicit Racial Bias

HOSTILITY, NERVOUSNESS, FURTIVE GESTURES

- People are more likely to interpret ambiguous behavior by Black individuals as
 - more aggressive and
 - consistent with violent intentions
- While interpreting the same behavior by white individuals as harmless.



EFFECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH

- **Study:** Young men aged 18 to 26 years old in New York City reported how many times they were approached by New York Police Department officers, what these encounters entailed, any trauma they attributed to the stops, and their overall anxiety.
- **Findings:** Young men reporting police contact, particularly more intrusive contact, displayed higher levels of anxiety and trauma associated with their experiences.



VICARIOUS POLICE CONTACTS AND STRESS

Watching police violence is almost as traumatizing as experiencing it.

- **Study:** Focused on attitudes toward police by black undergraduate students (66 women, 35 men) ages 16 to 21.
- **Results:**
 - Witnessing the police use excessive force during an arrest, was associated with greater stress levels.
 - **Vicarious contact** produced similar stress levels as direct contact.
 - Male college students reported significantly greater stress across all types of police contact than did their female counterparts.

RACE-RELATED TRAUMATIC EVENTS ONLINE

- **Study:** Assessed whether viewing race-related traumatic events online (TEO) was associated with depressive and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. The national sample included 302 African American and Latinx adolescents between 11–19 years old.
- **Results:** There is a significant association between TEO and both PTSD symptoms and depressive symptoms. PTSD symptoms included re-experiencing, hyperarousal, and numbing.

Police brutality imagery on social media can cause lasting trauma, especially for black people

Julia Naftulin Jun 3, 2020, 1:09 PM



POLICE STOPS AND SLEEP BEHAVIORS

- **Study:** Examined the association between exposure to police stops and sleep behaviors of 3,444 U.S. youth.
 - In the study, youth reported their:
 - exposure to vicarious and direct police stops,
 - police intrusiveness during police stops, and
 - experiences of social stigma and post-traumatic stress following the stop.
- **Results:** Youth who reported exposure to police stops exhibited significantly greater odds of sleep deprivation and low sleep quality.



LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON PHYSICAL HEALTH

- **Findings:** Youth living in neighborhoods where pedestrian stops are more likely to become invasive is associated with worse health.
 - High blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, ulcers, cognitive impairment, autoimmune disorders, accelerated aging, and early death



Joy Ride #1



Joy Ride #2



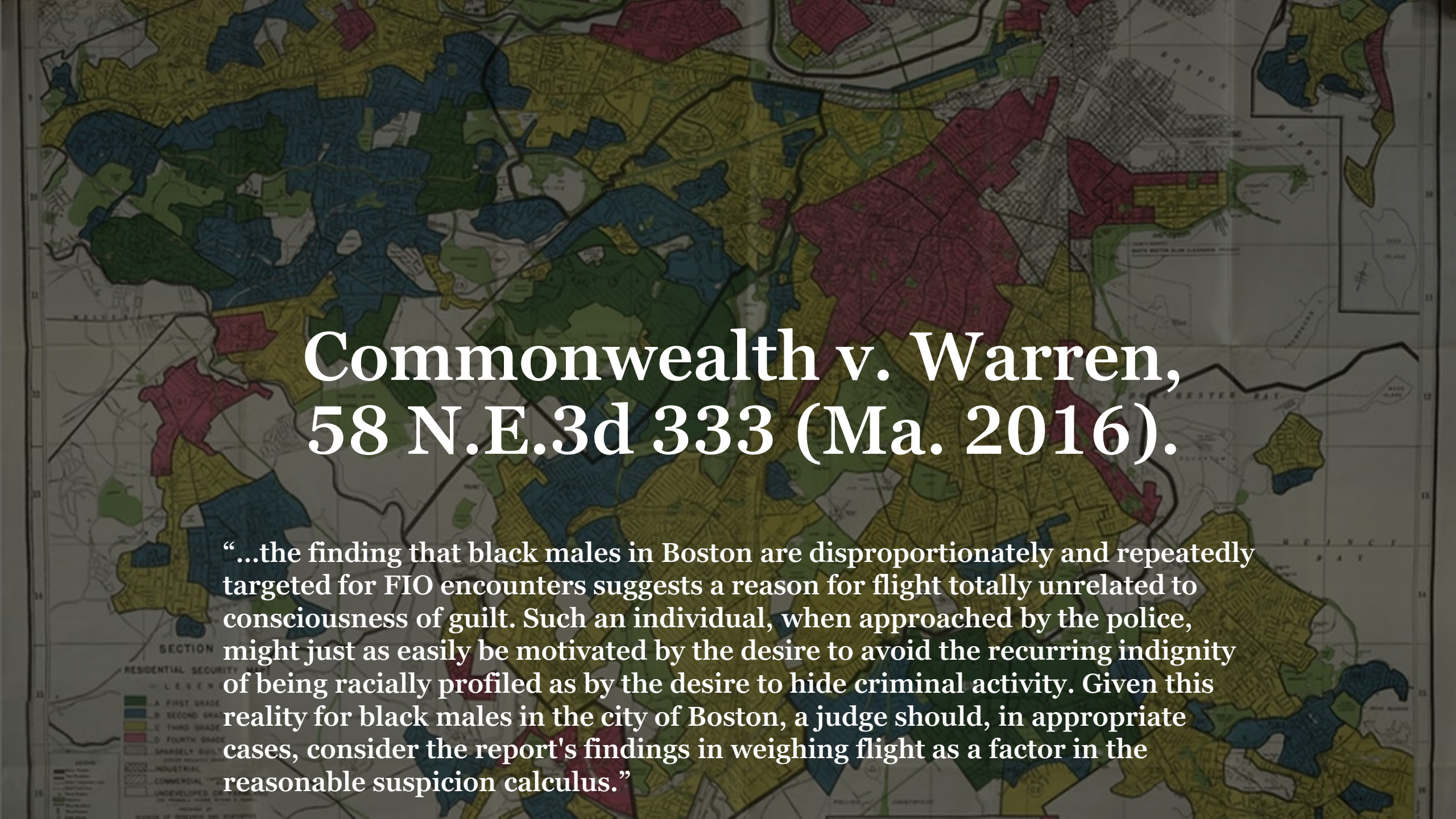
Similarities and Differences

• Similar

- Thrill Seeking
- Don't Assess Risk
- Immediate Outcomes
- Peer Influence
- Both Can Change

• Different

- Access to Different Cars
- Parents' Access to a Car
- Police Presence in Neighborhood
- Differing Police Response
- Societal Perception



Commonwealth v. Warren, 58 N.E.3d 333 (Ma. 2016).

“...the finding that black males in Boston are disproportionately and repeatedly targeted for FIO encounters suggests a reason for flight totally unrelated to consciousness of guilt. Such an individual, when approached by the police, might just as easily be motivated by the desire to avoid the recurring indignity of being racially profiled as by the desire to hide criminal activity. Given this reality for black males in the city of Boston, a judge should, in appropriate cases, consider the report's findings in weighing flight as a factor in the reasonable suspicion calculus.”

What is underneath language matters...

- Reasonable Suspicion must be grounded in specific, articulable facts and reasonable inferences therefrom rather than on a hunch.
 - Suspicion must be individualized.
- ~~Matched the description?~~
 - the victim's description "contribute[d] nothing to the officers' ability to distinguish the defendant from any other black male" wearing dark clothes and a "hoodie" in Roxbury.
 - ~~Proximity?~~
 - the defendant's presence on the street, some distance away from the crime, within a time frame inconsistent with having recently fled the scene, is hardly revelatory of an individualized suspicion of the defendant as the perpetrator of the crime.
 - ~~Flight?~~
 - when approached by the police, might just as easily be motivated by the desire to avoid the recurring indignity of being racially profiled as by the desire to hide criminal activity.






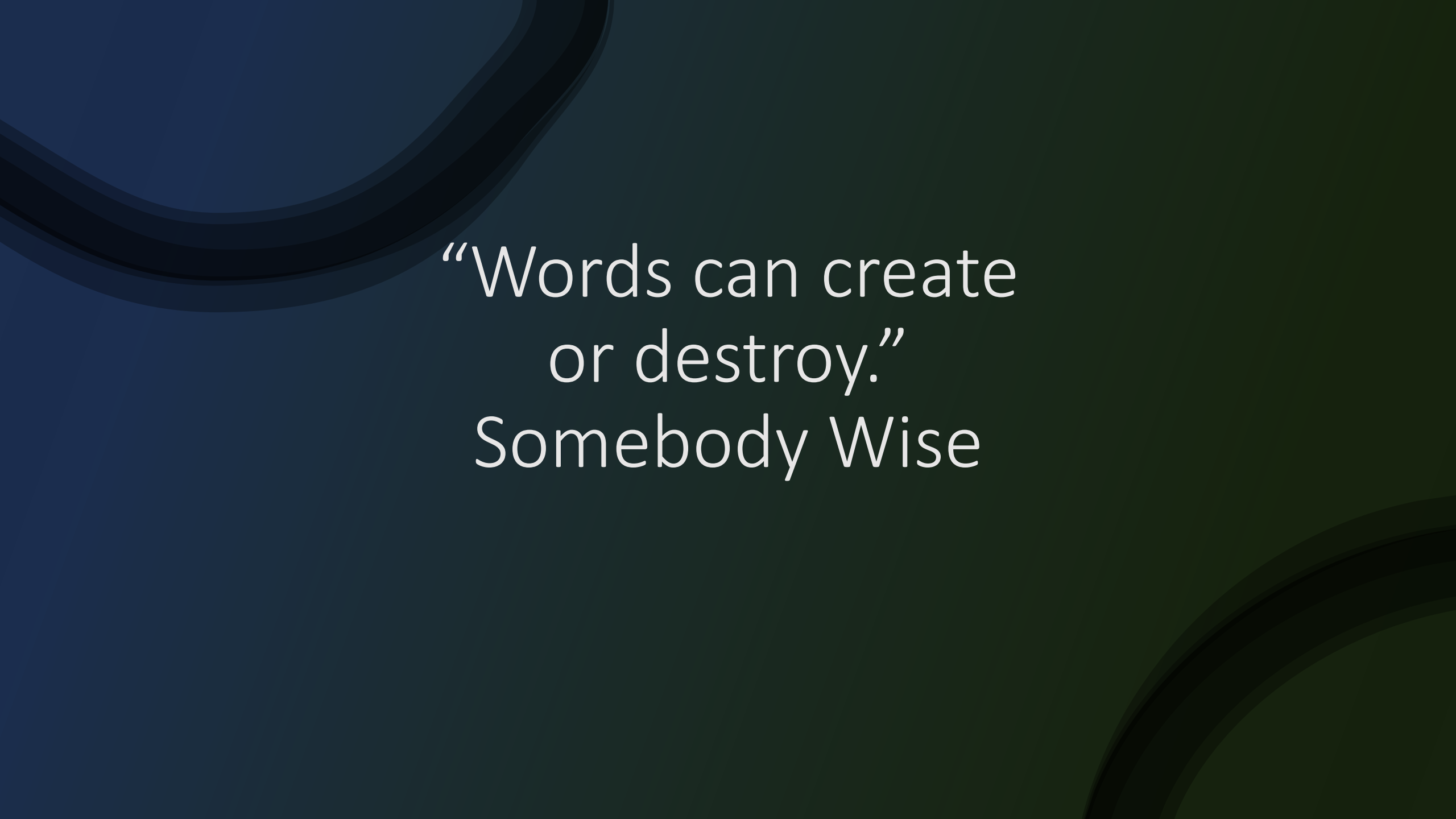
STEREOTYPE THREAT

- Blacks, but not whites, reported concerns that police officers stereotype them as criminals simply because of their race.
- Causes some to engage in “self regulatory” behaviors that actually made them look more guilty.





Najdowski, Cynthia J.; Bottoms, Bette L.; Goff, Phillip Atiba. Stereotype Threat and Racial Differences in Citizens' Experiences of Police Encounters, *J. Law & Human Behavior* (American Psychological Association). Oct 2015, Vol. 39 Issue 5, p463-477.



WHAT BEHAVIOR DO I SEE?	HOW DOES THAT MAKE ME FEEL?	WHAT MIGHT BE UNDERNEATH THE BEHAVIOR?	WHAT WILL I DO IN RESPONSE?
Negative body language (crossed arms, rolling eyes, refusal to stand/sit/make eye contact, etc.)	Disrespected	Youth may display what appears to be oppositional body language because of traumatic experiences or language deficiencies that make it difficult to appropriately express and articulate their thoughts or feelings. A youth's body language may also indicate feelings of stress, nervousness, unfairness, fear, or embarrassment, especially when the young person's peers, rivals, or family members are watching in the courtroom.	 <p>Be patient, listen well, have empathy, and de-escalate situations as they arise.</p> <p>Consider saying, "I know it's hard to be here in court, we all want to ensure..."</p> <p>Give second and third chances for youth struggling to act appropriately in court. For instance, when a young person has an outburst, rather than escalating the situation with threatened sanctions, give youth an opportunity to step outside with their attorney to calm their emotions, and re-call the case later.</p>
Defiance Mouthing off Talking back	Insulted	Youth do not always have the language skills to express how they feel and/or the skillset to express disagreement. They may find it difficult to appropriately express their emotions, especially in front of their peers and other people in the courtroom.	
Disruptive or distracting behavior Disassociation	Angry Frustrated	Studies show that trauma may affect a youth's ability to control impulses or perceive risks associated with their behaviors, meaning that they may be <i>unable</i> to meet adults' expectations for their behavior, rather than <i>unwilling</i> . Youth who have experienced trauma may have learned to use compliance or defiance as survival mechanisms. Punitive sanctions are unlikely to change trauma-related behaviors. Instead, treatment for underlying or ongoing trauma and supports that help youth control impulses and manage their anger may be more effective responses to disorderly conduct.	
Emotional outbursts Frustration	Irritated Frustrated	Youth are particularly sensitive to issues of fairness and respect and have yet to master tempering their emotions, controlling their impulses, and regulating their behavior, especially in the face of seemingly unfair outcomes. Youth care about procedural justice and expect to be treated with respect and impartiality and be given an opportunity to tell their side of the story and express their own views and opinions. If not given the opportunity to do so, they may express their frustration through emotional outbursts.	
Inability to show remorse Laughing Scoffing Sucking teeth	Hurt Disrespected	Youth who perceive the system as unfair, or who have diminished cognitive capacity, or who have experienced trauma, may struggle to convey contrition and remorse shortly after an arrest or adjudication. Other developmental features of adolescence, such as peer influence and teenage bravado, or simply immaturity, may further inhibit expressions of grief and remorse.	



“Words can create
or destroy.”
Somebody Wise

LANGUAGE THAT DEMEANS YOUNG PEOPLE	LANGUAGE THAT AFFIRMS & HUMANIZES	CONSIDER USING LANGUAGE THAT
Aggressive	Assertive about opinions	 Recognizes normal adolescent behavior & trauma
Defiant Non-compliant	Struggling to manage some of our expectations	
Disrespectful Oppositional	Appears to be frustrated by what is being expected Appears to be having difficulty meeting certain expectations	
Incorrigible	Requires additional support and guidance	
Loud	Impassioned response	
Manipulative	Eager for a specific outcome Trying to figure things out	
Resistant	Struggling to connect	

LANGUAGE THAT DEMEANS YOUNG PEOPLE	LANGUAGE THAT AFFIRMS & HUMANIZES	CONSIDER USING LANGUAGE THAT
Bodies (“move the bodies from the holding cell”)	Please escort [youth’s first name] to/from the courtroom	 <p>Accurately and respectfully talks about a youth’s identity and situation</p>
Drug addict Abuser	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Youth in need of drug treatment	
Drug dealer	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Youth adjudicated for drug distribution	
Gang member	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Youth affiliated with a group	
Illegal immigrant Alien	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Undocumented youth Youth seeking citizenship	
Inmate	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Residents/youth/ young people in the facility	
The mother The father Family member	Mr./Mrs./Ms. with family/guardian’s last name	
Thug	Youth’s first name (or preferred name)	 <p>Does not reduce a youth to their criminal status; avoids labeling and permanently stigmatizing</p>
Delinquent	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Youth adjudicated of delinquency	
Felon Convict	Youth’s first name (or preferred name) Youth with a felony adjudication	
Offender	Youth’s first name (or preferred name)	

LANGUAGE THAT DEMEANS YOUNG PEOPLE	LANGUAGE THAT AFFIRMS & HUMANIZES			CONSIDER USING LANGUAGE THAT
Juvenile	Youth's first name (or preferred name) Youth	Minor Young person Children	Kids	 Affirms the presumption of innocence
Perpetrator Perp	Youth's first name (or preferred name) Youth adjudicated delinquent			
Respondent	Youth's first name (or preferred name)			
Dangerous neighborhoods High-risk neighborhoods	Communities experiencing high levels of [X]			 Defies stereotypes and respects youth individuality
Minorities	Identify the specific racial or ethnic group People of color			
Poor	Youth from low-income or underserved families			
Projects Section 8	Government-subsidized housing			

HONORING IOWA'S FALLEN SAILORS

Stories on pages 4 & 5

DAILY NEWS

300

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER

Friday, April 27, 1990

CENTRAL PARK HORROR

WOLF PACK'S
PREY

Cops search Central Park where jogger was attacked yesterday.

**Female
jogger
near death
after savage
attack by
roving gang**

COVERAGE BEGINS
ON PAGES 2 & 3

Saturday, April 22, 1990

DAILY NEWS

3

TERROR IN CENTRAL PARK: VICTIM HAS 50-50 CHANCE

'WILDING' TEENS
HELD IN RAPE

7 are called part of wolf pack



Seven teenagers were charged yesterday with brutally raping and nearly killing a jogger during a crime spree in which nearly three dozen youths roamed Central Park "wilding" — randomly attacking anyone they found.

The youths — aged 14 to 16 — were charged as the comatose woman, a 28-year-old investment banker, battled for her life. Cops said the teens were part of a wolf pack that

This story was reported
by Daily News staff
writers **Sharon**
Shoups, **Larry**
Green, and **John**
McGowan.

Going 'wilding'
in the streets

On the streets, where kids groove on staccato blasts of rap music, it's called "wilding."

"You could say, 'I'm wilding,' and it means doing prankish jokes that lead to violence or chaos," said Kevin Maxwell, a salesman at Downstairs Records, a Manhattan shop frequented by rap disc jockeys.

While cops said yesterday the term was new to them, Maxwell said "down" or hip kids have used "wilding" as slang for "bagging out" or "going berserk" for about two years.

Dejays said they've never heard the term in

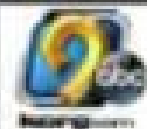
PBS - The Central Park Five



A young man walks through chest deep flood water after **looting** a grocery store in New Orleans on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Flood waters continue to rise in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina did extensive damage when it made landfall on Monday. (AP Photo/Dave Martin)



Two residents wade through chest-deep water after **finding** bread and soda from a local grocery store after Hurricane Katrina came through the area in New Orleans, Louisiana. (AFP/Getty Images/Chris Graythen)



Monday, Mar 23, 2015

Full Forecast -

Overall Feels Like 33°



NEWS WEATHER CANCELLATIONS SPORTS VIDEO 9.2 9.3 SHOW YOUR CARE YOURS CONTACT US

Three University of Iowa wrestlers arrested; burglary charges pending

By Lee Herminator, The Gazette

Photos



Ross Lombard, Seth Orms and Logan Ryan



Monday, Mar 23, 2015

Full Forecast -

33°
Overall Feels Like 33°



NEWS WEATHER CANCELLATIONS SPORTS VIDEO 9.2 9.3 SHOW YOUR CARE YOURS

Coralville police arrest four in burglary investigation

By Lee Herminator, The Gazette

Video

Photos



Coralville burglary suspects Kevin Crawford, Mike Whitford, Quentin D. W. Edman and Curtis J. Johnson (left to right)



CBS News
@CBSNews

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Ex-con skips job interview, takes shirt off his back to save car crash victim [cbsn.ws/2ukiBOE](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/2ukiBOE)



6:18 AM · Jul 15, 2017 · True Anthem

2,248 Retweets 3,318 Quote Tweets 6,990 Likes



Man skips job interview, jumps off bus to rescue car crash victim

BY JENNIFER EARL

JULY 14, 2017 / 5:33 PM / CBS NEWS



“These are all
our children. We
will profit, or pay
for, whatever
they become.”
James Baldwin

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ehoward@defendyouthrights.org

