

Essay Contest for Children and Young People of African Descent 2013

11-13 years

Instructions

1. You have 2 hour and thirty minutes to write your essay using 500 to 800 words.
2. On the front page, please have them write your :

Name *Sikiya Nhumairo Nhumairo*

Age *13*

Title of the Essay *Beauty Whitewashed: How White Ideals exclude women of colour*

My name is Sibiya Nhumairo and I am 13 years old. I am a student and today I will be explaining and evaluating the article called "Beauty Whitewashed: How white ideals exclude women of colour" and explain what this article is saying.

My first point is that the media is influencing that black are not beautiful because their black, they are not white. They Vanity Fair 2012 "Fresh faces of Young Hollywood" only feature white women on the cover... again. Telling people that only white people can be on the cover of magazine. Another example is that beautiful women of colour like Beyonce, Rihanna, Penner Lopez and others have become increasingly 'anglicized' or 'whitewashed' over time by their media representation, they have been with straighter hair and lighter make-up telling people if they want to look beautiful like them you have to straighten your hair and get lighter make-up instead of keeping their looks the same. I think this is wrong because you don't need to have lighter skin and straight hair to look beautiful. Also, Even though, coloured women are getting recognized for something other than beauty, they are still getting whitewashed. Like Oscar nomination, Laurence Fishburne from 'Precious' had been whitewashed to feature on the cover of 'Elle' magazine.

I also think black people are being discriminated because of their looks. Representations of women of colour in media has slightly risen over the past decade however finding women with dark skin tones or natural hair is nearly impossible in mainstream media. I think is not good and it's very biased to think black and other coloured people are not as beautiful as white people. I also think that the coloured women like Beyonce and Rihanna are not standing up to this and are letting this happen to them which surprises me you would expect to refuse it and to get pictured with their natural skin and hair colour. This is showing us how the media can also affect ~~cele~~ well-known celebrities.

Despite the fact that both Latinas and Blacks have more feminine curves than white women, they still trying to look perfect when they are ok. Putting themselves with hours of labour like plastic surgery and digital manipulation. I think God made us the way we are and it isn't right to change yourself. I think that mainly because I'm a christian.

I think this is a part of racism saying the beauty ideal is white. People like Tyra Banks and Halle Berry being made more lighter and I think it is disgraceful.

Sibiyon

Women are being told that the perfect figure is a thin-ideal. Many, many women are being pulled down because they are too skinny or too fat. This isn't only a problem for women as men as well are being told that the perfect figure is a muscular man who has a six-pack and biceps show. Because of the media, men are told that if they want girls they have to hit the gym and work-out. Women believe that to get the perfect figure they have to disorder eat and starve yourself, this could lead to bulimia or anorexia. The world's skinnest woman was rejected from a model group because they said she was too big so she stopped eating. I think it is immoral to tell people this.

Overall, I think this article is saying that people are changing the way they are because of the media are putting more white people on front covers and also even though some black people are on magazine they are being whitewashed so they can be on the cover.