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African American civil rights movement started in 1954 and ended in 1968. Civil rights are rights for citizens to have equality. The black lives matter movement started around 2013 and is continuing through out today. Basic human rights are when all people have equal treatment. Both movements have many examples of protest literature. Protest literature is a way for people to express their opinion towards a political or social issue. Both movements have protest literature examples. Some of these examples can be the “I Have a Dream” speech by Martin Luther King Jr. and the article “KING: America needs fewer cops, fewer laws and drastically fewer arrests and convictions” by Shaun King. Similarities between both are they both show good argument through their writing. There are different writing styles/types that are presented such as letter, speeches, and they can be described as persuasive. A main difference between these two movements is that one of the leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement says that the Black Lives Matter movement is not a civil rights movement. She says that is a basic human right one. The difference between a civil rights and basic human rights is that of a person in a certain country such as the rights given to an American citizen by the constitution and basic human rights are that given to a human for just being a human. Protest literature can be portrayed in many ways and the Civil Rights Movement vs. the Black Lives Matter is a good example.

The Civil Rights Movement started when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus. The Civil Rights Movement also ended in about 1968 (Civil Rights Movement). The Civil Rights Movement also had a kickstart with the way that the African Americans were treated so horribly that they just wanted to rebel and be treated equally as humans. In 1963 Martin Luther King was protesting with others and was arrested and this turned into him being arrested and being sent to the Birmingham jail. This where he wrote his “Letter from Birmingham Jail” letter (America’s Library). The letter was written by Martin Luther King Jr. while he was in the jail. He was addressing many clergymen about his injustice (King Jr.). He believed that it was his right to be able to protest. This letter is persuasive because of the fact he is trying to get out of jail and show why he was being done wrong by being in jail. The form of this protest literature is a letter as stated before. The next main literature by Martin Luther King is his quite famous “I Have a Dream” speech which was presented at the Lincoln memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered this speech. In his speech he talks about how he wants his children to be able to grow up a normal life and to be equal (King Jr.). He was trying to shine some light on the conflict and hate towards the black community and try to make everyone equal. Like said before this is presented as a speech and a very important speech. “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character” (King Jr.). This where he talks about his children. About five years later Martin Luther King Jr. sadly died.

In Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was assonated on the balcony of his hotel room (Jo Freeman.com). One of Martin’s friends made a speech in his honor called “The Poor People’s Campaign”. The Poor Peoples Campaign was organized by Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. But, when Martin Luther King Jr. Ralph Abernathy took over. This organization was to help the poorer people in America. The speech was a memorial for Martin Luther King Jr. honoring him and everything that he had accomplished. “Thank God that he lived in this generation, that our lives were touched and inspired by him…” (Abernathy). The quote talks about how thankful Abernathy is that he had the privilege to work with Martin Luther King Jr. and he is touched by his work. Ralph David Abernathy is the person who delivered this memorial speech. The Black Lives Matter movement started in 2013 when African Americans believed that they were still yet to be treated as equals. African Americans were being “murdered” by police officers and thought this was just going out of hand and needed to be fixed (blacklivesmatter.com). Police brutality is when a police officer uses any force that is exceeding the needed force. There are many contributors to the Black Lives Matter movement including DeRay McKesson. DeRay McKesson is a 32-year-old man. He is an educator and a writer. He has written for the Huffington Post and keeps up with conflict with twitter. He is also a part of the Ferguson Protestor Newsletter (Huffington Post). He also hosts the “Crooked Media” podcast and ran for mayor of Baltimore. He is associated with the Black Lives Matter movement as an activist. One of his writings for the Huffington Post is “An Open Letter from Ferguson Protestors and Allies”. This article is not only written by DeRay McKesson but also Brittany Packnett, and Johnetta Elzie. This article was written in 2014 and explain their perspective of all the conflict in the black community. They believed that we all live in an “American horror story” in which they said that it should change. “We are not concerned if this inconveniences you. Dead children are more than an inconvenience.” (Huffington Post). This article is persuasive in the way where they want people to know what they believe should occur to fix the conflict. This post is not the only article DeRay has written on the Huffington Post. There are more supporters and or activist for the Black Lives Matter movement including Alicia Garza and Shaun King.

African American milestones started back in 1916 when slaves were sold and brought to America. The timeline is still happening, but the last milestone is when Barack Obama became the first African American president (Hostory.com). One day the Black Lives Matter movement should be in the Even though many people believe that the Black Lives Matter movement is a civil rights movement, but it is not. Opal Tometi says that the Black Lives Matter movement is a basic human rights movement where they are fighting for basic rights that every human should have no matter the race. Opal Tometi is one of the co-founders of the Black Lives Matter movement. She is also a writer and a community organizer. The other two founders of the Black Lives Matter Movement are Alicia Garza and Patrisse Cullors. Alicia Garza is like stated is a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement. Alicia Garza is also a writer and an activist. Alicia is a graduate at the San Francisco State University. She was a top graduate and she also delivered a speech at San Francisco state University on May 25th (Cassius). Her speech is called “There Would be no America were it Not for Black Women”. Alicia talks about how important African American women are to society and how nothing would be the way it is without them (Garza). “… we owe everything to black women” (Garza). She is stating her opinion and also some examples to prove her point. Another follower of the Black Lives Matter movement is Shaun King. Shaun king is an activist for the Black Lives Matter movement and has strong opinions. He writes for the Daily News website. He is 38 years old, a writer, pastor, and an activist like stated before. He has five children. One of Shaun’s articles for the Daily News website is called “King: America needs Fewer Cops, Fewer Laws and Drastically Fewer Arrests and Convictions” (Daily News). He starts his article with how the United States of America has many laws, then talks about drug addiction and other problems that need to be changed in the United States. This article is very opinionized but just like Garza’s speech has good points and backup information.

In conclusion the literature of both movements can have many different similarities and or differences. The main difference between these movements is that one is a civil rights movement and the other a basic human rights movement. But, both are fighting for African American rights and both are having huge impacts on society. I feel like the Black Lives Matter Movement might be easier to have been misinterpreted and or spread with social media. The authors of the literature pieces all had more of a persuasive writing style, such as how they all would state their opinions, and this is because they are all protest literature. I personally think that people writing for the Black Lives Mater movement don’t have as much background. But, both movements have reason. I also do not believe in all the statements made but that is all opinion. For example, I do not think that we need less police officers. Some police officers may take their power and use it for the worst, but we need them to keep us safe in such a harsh environment now a day. Not every police officer is bad.

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