



**Pre-reading** is a key learning disposition. It is used at college and university. By completing reading before coming to a lesson, you are able to increase the amount of time that you can spend with your class responding to the reading and using it to develop your understanding of the topic. This habit-forming pro forma builds on Summary Man and the note-taking KLD.

<b>Article</b>		<b>Character – Anti-racism movement</b>	<b>Due Date:</b> 19.6.20
			<b>Date Completed:</b>
<b>Reference:</b> <h2>How to make this moment a turning point for real change – Barack Obama</h2>			
<b>Type of text:</b> <a href="https://medium.com/@BarackObama/how-to-make-this-moment-the-turning-point-for-real-change-9fa209806067">https://medium.com/@BarackObama/how-to-make-this-moment-the-turning-point-for-real-change-9fa209806067</a>			
<b>What To Do</b> Tick the boxes as you complete each stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare your study space and ensure that you have your pen, pencil and highlighters to hand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read the questions /focus that you are being asked to consider.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Read the text (including the introduction or summary paragraph)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Highlight any words that appear in the glossary.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Highlight and find a definition for words that you are not familiar with.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Respond to the questions below. The questions will support your note-taking.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make bullet pointed notes that help you answer the key points</li> </ul>			
<b>Suggested Timings:</b> Reading: 15 minutes Responding: 15 minutes Checking: 5 minutes	<b>Start time:</b>		<b>Time taken:</b>
	<b>End time:</b>		<b>Time spent checking:</b>
<b>Glossary:</b> <b>opportunism</b> – taking advantage of circumstances with little regard for principles <b>recurrent</b> – repeating <b>civil disobedience</b> - the refusal to comply with certain laws considered unjust, as a peaceful form of political protest <b>offer lip service</b> – express support insincerely through words only			
<b>Questions to support your note-taking:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does Obama feel about the protests that have taken place in the US?</li> <li>2. Obama says ‘the choice isn’t between protest and politics’. Explain why he feels a combination of both is important.</li> <li>3. Obama says we need to ‘channel our justifiable anger into peaceful, sustained, and effective action’. Do you agree? Why? What kind of actions does he suggest?</li> </ol>			
<b>Extended question: What key messages can the UK borrow from Obama’s article?</b>			
<b>Stretch: Comparisons between the US and the UK are not helpful. Do you agree?</b>			



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As millions of people across the country take to the streets and raise their voices in response to the killing of George Floyd and the ongoing problem of unequal justice, many people have reached out asking how we can sustain momentum to bring about real change.

Ultimately, it's going to be up to a new generation of activists to shape strategies that best fit the times. But I believe there are some basic lessons to draw from past efforts that are worth remembering.

First, the waves of protests across the country represent a genuine and legitimate frustration over a decades-long failure to reform police practices and the broader criminal justice system in the United States. The overwhelming majority of participants have been peaceful, courageous, responsible, and inspiring. They deserve our respect and support, not condemnation — something that police in cities like Camden and Flint have commendably understood.

On the other hand, the small minority of folks who've resorted to violence in various forms, whether out of genuine anger or mere **opportunism**, are putting innocent people at risk, compounding the destruction of neighborhoods that are often already short on services and investment and detracting from the larger cause. I saw an elderly black woman being interviewed today in tears because the only grocery store in her neighborhood had been trashed. If history is any guide, that store may take years to come back. So let's not excuse violence, or rationalize it, or participate in it. If we want our criminal justice system, and American society at large, to operate on a higher ethical code, then we have to model that code ourselves.

Second, I've heard some suggest that the **recurrent** problem of racial bias in our criminal justice system proves that only protests and direct action can bring about change, and that voting and participation in electoral politics is a waste of time. I couldn't disagree more. The point of protest is to raise public awareness, to put a spotlight on injustice, and to make the powers that be uncomfortable; in fact, throughout American history, it's often only been in response to protests and **civil disobedience** that the political system has even paid attention to marginalized communities. But eventually, aspirations have to be translated into specific laws and institutional practices — and in a democracy, that only happens when we elect government officials who are responsive to our demands.

Moreover, it's important for us to understand which levels of government have the biggest impact on our criminal justice system and police practices. When we think about politics, a lot of us focus only on the presidency and the federal government. And yes, we should be fighting to make sure that we have a president, a Congress, a U.S. Justice Department, and a federal judiciary that actually recognize the ongoing, corrosive role that racism plays in our society and want to do something about it. But the elected officials who matter most in reforming police departments and the criminal justice system work at the state and local levels.

So the bottom line is this: if we want to bring about real change, then the choice isn't between protest and politics. We have to do both. We have to mobilize to raise awareness, and we have to organize and cast our ballots to make sure that we elect candidates who will act on reform.



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Finally, the more specific we can make demands for criminal justice and police reform, the harder it will be for elected officials to just **offer lip service** to the cause and then fall back into business as usual once protests have gone away. The content of that reform agenda will be different for various communities. A big city may need one set of reforms; a rural community may need another. Some agencies will require wholesale rehabilitation; others should make minor improvements. Every law enforcement agency should have clear policies, including an independent body that conducts investigations of alleged misconduct. Tailoring reforms for each community will require local activists and organizations to do their research and educate fellow citizens in their community on what strategies work best.

But as a starting point, here's a report and toolkit developed by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and based on the work of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing that I formed when I was in the White House. And if you're interested in taking concrete action, we've also created a dedicated site at the Obama Foundation to aggregate and direct you to useful resources and organizations who've been fighting the good fight at the local and national levels for years.

I recognize that these past few months have been hard and dispiriting — that the fear, sorrow, uncertainty, and hardship of a pandemic have been compounded by tragic reminders that prejudice and inequality still shape so much of American life. But watching the heightened activism of young people in recent weeks, of every race and every station, makes me hopeful. If, going forward, we can channel our justifiable anger into peaceful, sustained, and effective action, then this moment can be a real turning point in our nation's long journey to live up to our highest ideals.

Let's get to work.



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**Answer the following the questions:**

1. What does Obama feel about the protests that have taken place in the US?
2. Obama says 'the choice isn't between protest and politics'. Explain why he feels a combination of both is important.
3. Obama says we need to 'channel our justifiable anger into peaceful, sustained, and effective action'. Do you agree? Why? What kind of actions does he suggest?

**Extended questions:** What key messages should the UK borrow from Obama's article?

Try and use concrete examples from the article.



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**Stretch: Comparisons between the US and the UK are not helpful. Do you agree?**