

Example Essay #2 on POC and the Medical Community

Throughout the past and present people of color have incessantly been treated unfairly. There have been many examples, one being during The Yellow Fever epidemic in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia back in 1793. After the slavery revolution in the Caribbean, Haiti; Philadelphia had a disease outbreak after a ship full of slaves came from Haiti. These slaves were immune to the disease because they were previously infected by mosquitoes who had been passing the disease between people. This led to pseudoscience (False Science) from famous scientists such as Dr. Benjamin Rush who wrote that blacks were immune to the disease. He got confused because only people from Haiti were immune, not every black person. Then later a black community in Philadelphia was asked to furnish treatment to the sick white people. The leader, a gregarious man named Richard Allen who helped create the black churches, agreed to help but soon after these black people also started to get sick and ended up dying too. Another example is the Affordable Care Act which was a bill passed to help low income families receive financial support for high medical costs. Some people are still uninsured today which can be troubling for the Covid-19 pandemic which started in 2019. Many false facts were made to support conspiracy theories which often ended up tricking people. There has been science made up to label slave escapees as mentally ill with drapetomania a crazy disorder. The U.S. had also performed infamous experiments on black people such as the Tuskegee experiment which was an experiment done on blacks with STDs for 40 plus years. It's difficult to trust the U.S. healthcare system when there have been so many issues between races. Based on all the documents of scientific racism, it is unequivocal that people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because often the communities of color are often taken advantage of by disingenuous people, the U.S. didn't furnish enough support for low income families of color, and the lives of people of color were put at jeopardy by scientists misusing science.

First, based on the Yellow Fever epidemic from 1793 and the Covid-19 pandemic from the present, people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because during the Yellow Fever epidemic and the Covid-19 pandemic people of color were often taken advantage of by disingenuous scientists and doctors who put people of color lives at risk by not being truthful. In particular, The Yellow Fever epidemic started in August 1793, when a ship arrived from Haiti to Philadelphia. Later it spread because of mosquitoes causing many white and black people to get sick. For instance, in the book, "An account of the Bilious Remitting Yellow Fever, as it Appeared in Philadelphia" by Benjamin Rush. Rush was known as a pseudoscientist back in 1794 because he often wrote false facts to separate blacks from whites. Rush wrote that blacks couldn't get sick and should offer services to the sick whites. Rush stated, "Fans undertook execution of their humane offer of services to the sick... They took the disease in common with the white people, and many of them died with it" (Rush). This quote explains that as blacks were offering their help, many of them ended up getting sick from their patients and dying. Many blacks died because of Rush's lies. Since Rush didn't do enough research he just lied and said black people couldn't get The Yellow Fever since the slaves from Haiti didn't get it. This led to the deaths of many black people who just wanted to help. This shows people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because even medical scientists are being dishonest and putting lives in danger. Moreover, in present healthcare there are also examples of people getting lied to. For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic which was first identified in 2019 in China. This disease spread through the air all over the world which caused plenty of lies to get passed around. In the article titled, "The Most Influential Spreader of Coronavirus Misinformation Online" by Sheera Frenkel, Frenkel is talking about a man named Dr. Mercola who in 2021 was consistently putting out false info to belittle the Covid-19 vaccine. Frenkel wrote, "Dr. Mercola has built a vast operation to push natural health cures, disseminate [*spread*] anti-vaccination content and profit from all of it" (Frenkel). Basically, Dr. Mercola wants people to start using natural cures by spreading false anti vaccination information. Mercola doesn't believe the ongoing Covid-19 vaccine and believes it mutates your DNA. All he really wants is money profit because the more support and money he gets, the more power he has to spread new lies. This is another strong reason people of color shouldn't believe in the

healthcare system because there are REAL doctors telling the U.S. not to believe in science just to make money off the U.S. Comparable to Rush, Dr Mercola lied to the community of color and made many suffer. These lies could have led up to the spike in Covid-19 cases and deaths. In conclusion, based on the Yellow Fever epidemic from 1793 and the Covid-19 pandemic from the present, people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because during the Yellow Fever epidemic and the Covid-19 pandemic people of color were often taken advantage of by disingenuous scientists and doctors who put people of color lives at risk by not being truthful. This is true because in the past and present people of color have always been treated unfairly because of their skin color. These medical researchers are disingenuous and don't think about the consequences. Many people of color died because of The Yellow Fever and Covid-19 all because false facts were spread. This is why people of color should not trust the U.S. healthcare system because they are going to end up getting mistreated.

Second, based on the Freedmen's Bureau Act from 1865 and the Affordable Care Act from 2010, people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because the Freedmen's Bureau and the Affordable Care Act both didn't furnish enough economical support, causing people of color to face onerous consequences. Specifically, The Freedmen's Bureau was a bill passed in 1865 after the Civil War between North and South States, releasing millions of slaves into the free world. After slavery was abolished, the South had to go through reconstruction in order to rebuild a new slavery free system. This bill was passed during reconstruction to legislate support to newly freed slaves with resources. Many African Americans didn't know what to do after getting freed from slavery, so the Freedmen's Bureau gave housing, schools and food to these slaves to get them suited. In the reading, "The Freedmen's Bureau Acts of 1865 and 1866" by The United States Senate. U.S. president Andrew Johnson, the predecessor of past president Abraham Lincoln was given an amendment in 1866. This amendment had plans to get rid of the Freedmen's Bureau expiration date which he rejected, because he was a racist who didn't want to help black people. The United States Senator repeated, "Providing aid to a specific group of people at the exclusion of others, and it was also expensive" (United States Senator). This quote shows Andrew Johnson rejecting the cancelation of the Freedmen's Bureau expiration date because he believed it was unfair to other groups and was expensive. Since the Freedmen's Bureau was still very much needed, Illinois senate Lyman Trumbull tried to amend the bill but was rejected of course. This is hypocritical of Andrew Johnson because when blacks were slaves, people didn't care about the price but now that they are released president Johnson said it was unfair and expensive to only worry about black people. This shows people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because even when they still needed support after years of brutal labor they were still being brushed off as though it was nothing. In addition, The Affordable Care Act from 2010 was passed to help insure low income families who couldn't afford health insurance. This bill was passed by Obama and nicknamed Obamacare. In the source, "Key Facts about the Uninsured Population" by Jennifer Tolbert, Tolbert explains in 2019, how many people still don't have health insurance because it is too expensive or not available to them. Tolbert wrote, "Studies repeatedly demonstrate that uninsured people are less likely than those with insurance to receive preventive care and services for major health conditions and chronic diseases" (Tolbert). This quote explains how many uninsured patients could possibly not get treated for major health and chronic conditions. The U.S. is one of the few countries that still doesn't have free health care which forces people to buy healthcare in order to get treatment for injuries. Our healthcare system is flawed and shows the American Care Act was nothing more than a futile ad to BUY health insurance. Health is a way of life, not a desire. It shouldn't be bought but instead deserved to those who need it the most. People of color should not trust the healthcare system because if money isn't given, no support is given back. Comparable to the Freedmen's Bureau the government was once again not supporting the community of color. To conclude, based on the Freedmen's Bureau Act from 1865 and the Affordable Care Act from 2010, people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because the Freedmen's Bureau and the Affordable Care Act both didn't furnish enough economical support, causing people of color to face onerous consequences. Slavery was brutal and instead of Andrew Johnson supporting the Bureau, he insisted it should end because it was unfair to the South and expensive. This was about equity and about being fair. White people were already settled down and black people had nothing. Andrew Johnson would much rather care about money rather than helping

these poor black people. To make this situation worse, people are still uninsured because U.S. healthcare still costs money. So if someone doesn't pay for their treatment, they would be denied or put in debt. This adds to the list of why people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because the government would much rather benefit from the revenue rather than saving a life.

Thirdly, based on past and modern day scientific racism sources, people of color should not trust the U.S. healthcare system because scientists such as Samuel A. Cartwright and the Tuskegee experiment put many lives at jeopardy with made up diseases and life threatening tests. To start with, scientific racism is pseudoscience (False Science) to prove racist beliefs. Pseudoscience was often used in the 19th century to support the act of Slavery by saying that all blacks were better suited for labor than whites. In the article, "A brief history of the enduring phony science that perpetuates white supremacy" by Michael Ruane. A Washington Post writer remarks in 2019, about a man named Samuel A. Cartwright who worked with the Medical Association of Louisiana in 1951, to help find a disease causing slaves to escape from their plantations. Raune remarked, "The mysterious and chronic disease had been afflicting slaves for years, working its way into their minds and causing them to flee from plantations" (Ruane). This quote is saying slaves who run away from their plantations are mentally disabled. They are labeled with Drapetomania which is a chronic disease that causes slaves to go crazy and flee their plantations. Cartwright was comparing blacks to animals in order to prove they were better fit for labor. This was scientific racism because they are labeling runaway slaves as mentally ill to trick the community into bringing them back to the plantation. Later many slaves would be beaten for running away. People of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because for years science has been made to dehumanize people of color and used to support dreadful events. Subsequently, modern day scientific racism is scientific racism used in the present such as the race disparity in our current healthcare system. This racism is the way certain races are treated differently when it comes to treatment. In the source, "Why life expectancy for blackmen fell following the infamous Tuskegee experiment" by news channel PBS Newshour. The PBS Newshour talked about the Tuskegee Medical Experiment which was a study for uncured syphilis (a Sexually Transmitted Disease) in blacks. Syphilis is a sexually transmitted malignant disease which breaks down parts of the brain. This study was from 1932 to 1972 where poor blackmen would often not have treatment and be forced to take painful tests. PBS Newshour presented, "Medical researchers not only deliberately withheld from the men proven treatments, such as penicillin, but also actively discouraged the test subjects from seeking medical advice" (PBS Newshour). This quote explains medical researchers were abusing the health of black men by not letting them have treatments for a curable disease. These men were forced to take painful spinal and blood tests. They were treated as animals which caused distrust in the community of color. This lowered the life expectancy in the black community because no one wanted to go to the hospital anymore. People of color ultimately didn't trust these healthcare systems and ended up dying because of fear. This is modern day racism because 100 years later after slavery black people are still getting mistreated and abused in the U.S. healthcare system. In summary, based on past and modern scientific racism sources, people of color should not trust the U.S. healthcare system because scientists such as Samuel A. Cartwright and the Tuskegee experiment put many lives at jeopardy with made up diseases and life threatening tests. Next time our community brings out the amazing studies of science, let's first show the truth about science. The system is racist and the U.S. used people of color as lab rats. Furthermore, Scientists labeled slaves as mentally ill with drapetomania being a false chronic disease the U.S. used to prove runaway slaves are mentally challenged. That's not all, the Tuskegee trial study shows the U.S. healthcare system just wants people of color for their bodies. The system took advantage of these men which could have been prevented. What makes this trial worse, is that it was semi-recent meaning these experiments could still be going on today. Don't trust the U.S. healthcare system because people are getting taken advantage of without them even knowing it.

In conclusion, based on all the documents of scientific racism, it is unequivocal that people of color shouldn't trust the U.S. healthcare system because often the communities of color are often taken advantage of by disingenuous people, the U.S. didn't furnish enough support for low income families of color, and the lives of people of color were put at jeopardy by scientist misusing science. This is true because during *The Yellow*

Fever and Covid-19 outbreaks, people of color were lied to which ultimately caused many deaths. During The Yellow Fever, false science was made up to support whites on their recovery. False science was created to prove that all black people were immune to the disease which was a lie. Lying caused outrage but the disease ultimately succumbed to the lives of an abundant amount of innocent black people. The present should be better since scientists and doctors are better suited for experiments. This was not the case though because doctors such as Dr. Mercola were lying about the vaccine so no one would get it. By spreading false info many people died because they never received the Covid-19 vaccine. The community of color don't deserve to be lied to because it can be very serious and lead to their deaths. Also, many families of color are not treated fairly because of their income which is insensitive since health isn't a choice, it's part of the body. Low income families were helped in the past with the use of the Freedmen's Bureau while in the present the American Care Act was created. The government has been the problem in both cases because during the Freedmen's Bureau president Andrew Johnson denied the amendment of ending the expiration date for the Bureau which could have still been around today. This was thoughtless of him because during the 1800's people of color, primarily blacks didn't have access to as much resources as white people because blacks were barely released from slavery. Many didn't have access to land which was needed to be stable. So by ending such a bill, it showed the government doesn't care for the community of color. In the present these examples are also shown because although the Affordable Care Act helped reduce uninsured people by reducing the cost of insurance, many still don't have health insurance because the price was still not adequate. So those people would just be left to die in case of an emergency. This is why people of color shouldn't trust the healthcare system because the government is inconsiderate and doesn't care for minorities such as the community of color. Finally, the healthcare system should not be trusted because the lives of people of color were put at jeopardy. Science has been used to prove terrible facts but, racist scientists such as Cartwright labeled slaves with a chronic disease. This disease made them run away from their plantations. There is no disease that makes one do such actions but, Cartwright was creating biased science in order to prove that slavery was acceptable. By saying escapees are mentally ill, most slaves would be brought back because people believed they were mentally disabled. This puts their lives at jeopardy because once a slave returns, that slave would most definitely be punished or worst killed. Another example would be the Tuskegee experiment, where Black men who had syphilis were put in trials without any medical treatment deliberately. Many of them ended up dying and once they died, their bodies were used for autopsies. Basically, these black men were treated as nothing more than animals. The U.S. healthcare system has been racist, unfair, and precarious for the community of color for years. Why should people of color trust a system where they are lied to?