Unit by the Kensington Health Sciences Humanities Team, part of the 2021 cohort of *The 1619 Project* Education Network

## Section 1

## What is this section mainly about?

Nikole Hanah Jones was very confident towards what she spoke about in her story, her primary point of views were about the ups and downs about the American flag and how very unequal it was for the black Americans. Black Americans were important in allowing America to uphold its ideals of freedom.

## What sentence or two do you think is Jones' thesis in this section?

"My father knew exactly what he was doing when he raised that flag. He knew that our people's contributions to building the richest and most powerful nation in the world were indelible, that the United States simply would not exist without us." (7)

What supporting points does she make to back up this thesis?	Evidence from the text
Dad	-"Like most young people, I thought I understood so much, when in fact I understood so little. My father knew exactly what he was doing when he raised that flag. He knew that our people's contributions to building the richest and most powerful nation in the world were indelible, that the United States simply would not exist without us." (7)
Historical Context Of Racism	-"I had been taught, in school, through cultural osmosis, that the flag wasn't really ours, that our history as a people began with enslavement and that we had contributed little to this great nation." (6)
Black Americans	- "Profits from black people's stolen labor helped the young nation pay off its war debts and financed some of our most prestigious universities. It was the relentless buying, selling, insuring and financing of their bodies and the products of their labor that made Wall Street a thriving banking, insurance and trading sector and New York City the financial capital of the world." (9)
What techniques does she use to make her argument convincing?	Evidence from the text

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## Dad (Pathos)

- Sympathy
- Deserves Gratitude
- Frustration

Historical Context Of Racism (Ethos)

- Ashamed/ Embarrassed/ Prideful
- Mixed Emotions
- She herself is a Black American therefore her credibility to talk about these issues are valid

Like many young men, he joined in hopes of escaping poverty. But he went into the military for another reason as well, a reason common to black men: Dad hoped that if he served his country, his country might finally treat him as an American.

In 1962, at age 17, he signed up for the Army.

How could this black man, having seen firsthand the way his country abused black Americans, how it refused to treat us as full citizens, proudly fly its banner? I didn't understand his patriotism. It deeply embarrassed me. ... It seemed that the closest thing black Americans could have to cultural pride was to be found in our vague connection to Africa, a place we had never been. That my dad felt so much honor in being an American felt like a marker of his degradation, his acceptance of our subordination.

Black Americans (logos)

- Contributions
- Fought for what right
- Solidarity

"Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" did not apply to fully one-fifth of the country. Yet despite being violently denied the freedom and justice promised to all, black Americans believed fervently in the American creed. Through centuries of black resistance and protest, we have helped the country live up to its founding ideals. And not only for ourselves — black rights struggles paved the way for every other rights struggle, including women's and gay rights, immigrant and disability rights. (11)