

# Brutality, Abolition and Legacies of Oppression: Black Muslim Perspectives on the BLM Movement

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## Research Question

How can I apply readings from our Directed Reading summer course to the real-life events of summer 2020, particularly the murder of George Floyd and the Minneapolis protests?

## Abstract

This research paper draws on the work of Black and brown academics in order to articulate the emotions and perspectives of two Black Muslim students witnessing the Black Lives Matter movement taking form in Minneapolis, Minnesota, following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis PD. The paper discusses five topics: the historical origins of policing, the road to police abolition, white supremacy and capitalism, social advocacy in the digital age, and the importance of allyship.

## Methods

In the first half of the course, I co-authored a reading summary which provided short-form analyses of texts like Audre Lorde's *The Uses of Anger* and bell hooks' *Talking Back*. Then I co-authored a 20-page essay which used these readings to articulate our perspectives in a comprehensive way.

## Summary

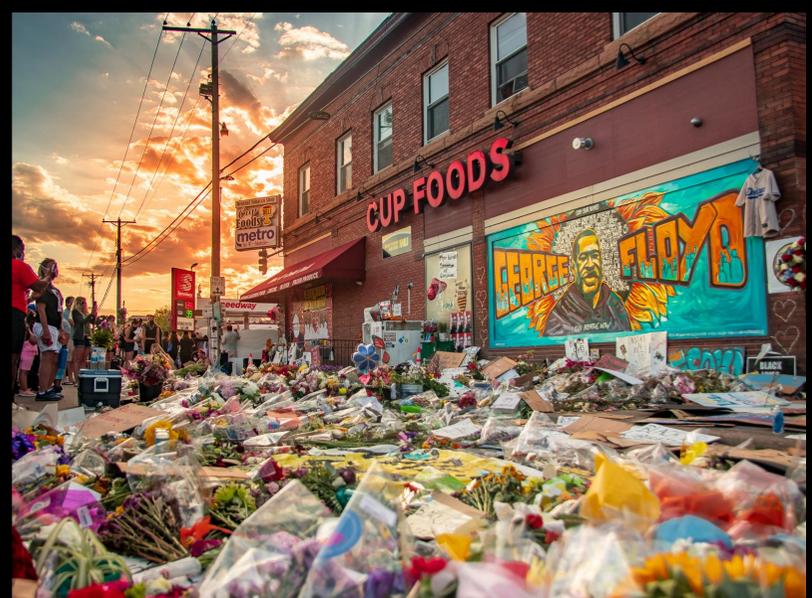
Throughout the course of the summer, I was able to read Black feminist essays and apply them to a real-life social movement that affected me deeply. Our research definitely took an unexpected turn in this regard, but I enjoyed learning more about myself and my history as a Black Muslim, which is something that I never would have gotten the opportunity to do if not for the DARE program.



Nathan Hibbert, Instagram



Sharif Mahamed, Instagram



Vasanth Rajkumar, The Independent