Student’s Name

Ms. Cole

AP Language/ 2nd pd.

8 August 2015

Article of the Week #1 – conflict

“Police shoot college football player in Texas”

**Bibliography**

Somashekhar, Sandhya. “Police shoot college football player in Texas.” *The Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 7 August 2015. Web. 8 August 2015.

**Objective Summary**

A 19-year-old football player at Angelo State was shot by an Arlington police officer after an altercation at a car dealership. The student, Christian J. Taylor, was unarmed when he was killed. The security system at the car dealership called police after noticing a suspicious figure; when police arrived, they discovered a vehicle had been driven through the front of the building. Police confronted Taylor, and an officer, Brad Miller, shot Taylor. Police officials have put him on administrative leave and are reviewing surveillance videos. So far, they have not found any views of the shooting.

**Analysis**

Sandhya Somashekhar, the author of the article is informing his audience, mostly liberal Americans, of another shooting of an unarmed African-American in the United States. This shooting happened in the South, the police officer was white and the victim was black, and it seemed to be during the commission of a crime. At the beginning of the article, Somashekhar is objective; she states the facts of the incident without personal commentary. While she has the perfect opportunity, the author does not mention prior young men gunned down by police, nor does she address the systemic racism rampant in many police stations. After the details of the incident are related, she reports sympathetic commentary from Taylor’s family, friends, and football coach, who said his “heart is hurting” (Somashekhar). Her tone when addressing Taylor’s character is compassionate – even when reporting on Taylor’s prior run-in with the law. Somashekhar mentions Taylor’s recent conversion to Christianity, calls him a “caring person,” and tells a story of selflessness for another student (Somashekhar). The author closes the article with a reminder of the dismissal of the prior charge against Taylor, which begs the reader to extend sympathy, rather than negatively judge the circumstances at the car lot. Somashekhar makes sure to relate that Taylor’s charge was for “11 hydrocodone tablets,” making the reader question someone who had experienced a life change and a positive response to probation would commit a serious crime, when their prior incident was a minor possession charge (Somashekhar). Her choices of details to include – and exclude – help the reader see Christian Taylor in a positive light.

**Link**

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/08/07/police-shoot-college-football-player-in-texas/