



CATCH PREP CHARTER HIGH

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SCHOOLWIDE ESSAY PROMPT #2

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BACKGROUND: Two weekends ago, a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia ended in tragedy as a suspected White Nationalist drove a car into a group of counter-protesters killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. Since then, a national conversation has ensued about race relations in America, and the degree to which our leaders should denounce or protect speech and the right to assemble – particularly when it comes to hate speech and hateful ideologies like Naziism and White Nationalism.



Barack Obama @BarackObama
"...For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." - Nelson Mandela

5:06 PM - 12 Aug 2017

In the midst of this national discourse, former President Of The United States Barack Obama made history by tweeting the three tweets and one image featured to the left in succession last Saturday. Since it was first posted, Obama's tweet has now become THE MOST LIKED TWEET IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, and has sparked a conversation in and of itself about the role of moral leadership in times like these for our nation.

For context, former President Obama's tweet is of an image of him from June 9, 2011 as he smiles up at a group of diverse young children at a daycare facility in Bethesda, Maryland. The tweet pairs this photo with a quote from Nelson Mandela's 1994 book, "Long Walk To Freedom," and it highlights the belief that, both, hate and love are learned behaviors... insinuating that love is best way forward for our country right now.

THE PROMPT: Why? Why has Barack Obama's tweet become the most popular tweet in history? What do Twitter users around the world see as important tenets of Obama's post? In a 1-2 page response, think seriously about the state of our nation right now (the way we talk at and about each other), and examine Obama's tweet as it relates to your daily life.