Tina Chen 2018/09/13

Identities Paragraph

Nowadays, there are still a lot of issues in the world such as racism, gender equality, and global warming. There is also an issue in the short story “Identities” written by W.D. Valgardson. The short story is talking about that a man who driving a car around was killed by a police officer for no reason. The police officer killed the man because he was too nervous to think, he judged the man unfairly, however, the man didn’t do anything harmful to anyone. First, the police officer felt nervous when the man put his hand into his pocket, who was trying to give his identity to the police, “in the last voluntary movement of his life, he reaches his hand toward his wallet for his identity.” The police didn’t know what it is in the man’s pocket. He wanted to protect himself from the danger, but he should not kill the man suddenly. Police officers are allowed to keep a gun and shoot when they feel threatened; but if the police officer feels threatened, he could shoot the man’s hands or foot instead of killing a life. Second, the police officer judged the man unfairly when he saw him, he thought the man was a thief because he had a scruff growing on his face and was wearing blue jeans, though he was driving an expensive car and had a lot of money, “because he has been trained to see an unshaven man in blue jeans as a potential thief and not probable owner.” It’s unfair to judge people like it because people can’t judge a person who he/she is by how he/she looks like. Last, the man didn’t hurt anyone. The job of a police officer is protecting the society, but not pushing people into dangers even loosing a life. The man was trusting the police would keep him safe but the police killed him suddenly, “when he turns part way around and recognizes the uniform, he does not feel fear but relief. Instinctively relaxing, certain of his safety.” All in all, the police officer in the short story “Identities” written by W.D. Valgardson was not justified when he killed the man. He should not kill the man because of his intense reaction, unfair judgement, and based on the innocent of the man.