**Thoughts on police brutality in the short story “Identities”**

**The police officer is not justified as he killed an innocent man**

“*Identities*” by W.D Valgardson is a tragic short story where an innocent man’s soul has been taken by the hands of a police officer who is unexperienced. Unnamed protagonist was a married man who normally goes clean-shaven into the world, specifically just on that day, he decided not to, instead, he went out into the world with his blue jeans on. He went out into the world without plans and started roaming around the neighbourhood with his grey Mercedes Benz. When he reached the urban area of the town, the police officer “who is unexperienced, who is nervous because of the neighbourhood, who is suspicious because of the care and because he has been trained to see a unshaven man in blue jeans as potential thief and not as a probable owner”, went forward to the protagonist with his gun on his hands as he thought the Mercedes was stolen (Valgardson 2). When the protagonist attempted to reach out for his identity, the police officer shot him as he thought that the protagonist was reaching out for his gun.

During that time of the year, the crime rate was high especially in urban areas where the gangs lurk around the alleys. It is unfair how a person’s life has been taken away by accusations. This could have brought tons of debate about police brutality and abusing citizens with police authority. I believe that being a police officer is risky and must be responsible. Police officer, who is unexperienced like this one, must not be dispatched into urban areas as this one, he would panic and wouldn’t know what to do, second, human nature tends to over react when feared. However, it is very wrong to accuse the protagonist and approach him with a gun on a hand. It is very wrong for the police trainers to teach their rookies to treat all unshaved, and person wearing blue jeans as a potential thief. The police officer could have approached the protagonist in better fashion. Also, the police trainers could have taught the trainees a better way to face this kind of problems.

In conclusion, the police officer was not justified for his actions but had justice upon him. He basically murdered an innocent man. The protagonist family could sue him for police brutality. There are many occasions where police officer shot an innocent man in the States where they were put in the court and charged for their mistakes. I think in this case, he would get the same results. In some way, I respect police officer’s duties and responsibilities to protect the citizens but sometimes, I see them abusing with their power. In the 90s and early 2000s, white police man had abused blacks using their white privilege and their police power backups. Police have power to protect the citizens, but I don’t think its right to abuse others with that power. Especially accusing the innocents.