Assumptions

“Don’t build roadblocks out of assumptions.” Lorii Myers. In the short story *Identities* by W.D. Valgardson the officer comes to an assumption of the man. “Identities” add more about the story itself takes place in the 1970’s between two settings, one being a big house located in a wealthy neighborhood, the other being a rough, poor area where it is known for thieves.

A man who lives in a wealthy neighbourhood is going through rough times and decides to leave his wife and kids for a drive in his Mercedes Benz. He drives into the bad area of his city, so off in his own world he does not notice a police officer following him. To the policeman, it looks to him that the man had stolen the car and sees this man as a thief. The man he finally notices the officer and feels a sense of relief since he was a little nervous to be in this area of the city and feels more safe with the officer around. The man pulls over to go to the payphone to call his wife but as the man walks to the payphone the officer yells “Halt”. The man does not stop and reaches his hand into his front pocket of his shirt and the officer shot the man dead.

The officer was not justified since “When the officer, who is inexperienced, who is nervous because he has been trained to see an unshaven man in blue jeans as a potential thief.” The officer should have yelled at the man more and demanded him to turn around. Using a gun in this situation was not the right weapon to use, a gun is to kill, and the officer had no proof that the man was doing anything wrong. It was all on the assumptions that the officer had.

The man had no right the be killed the officer was not justified because he was inexperienced, nervous, and just made an assumption about the man.