English 12 Maria Benitez Block C September 13th, 2019

**A blurred line**

One wouldn’t expect to get hurt by those who are to make them feel safe, if that was so, who are we to trust? Who are we to rely on?

In the short story *Identities*, W.D. Valgardson talks about a man from a wealthy neighborhood who drives into the North in a bad area of the city. When suddenly, he realizes a police officer has been following him. What he didn’t know is that the police thought that the man had stolen the car he was driving. By the time he is stopped, the man reaches in his pocket to get his identification but instead he gets shot.

While the police officer could have done it for self-defense , killing the innocent man should not be justified as cops shouldn't have to use the deadly force at all unless found at major risk. Cops are given a lot of legal latitude to use force without fear of punishment. Putting themselves in a state of fear towards the suspect will further put them in a position where they will have no choice but to shoot.

In our society, police officers must repair community trust to effectively do their jobs. There is bit of irony when the man feels so relaxed and “certain of his safety,” even though it is the officer he should have feared in the first place. Reading this piece made me think of minorities who are affected by police brutality and frequently receive no justice, for example, Trayvon Martin, a seventeen-year-old African American teenager was returning home from buying skittles, wearing had a black hoodie, and was fatally shot when labelled as a suspicious subject. This is just one of many examples of injustices that have come with officers going against protocol.

Is there a blurred line between those who should protect us and those who we should fear?