**The justification of involuntary manslaughter**

Having a pistol pointed to you is not the warm welcome you would expect from visiting your childhood neighborhood. The short story *Identities* by W.D. Valgardson tells the story about an unshaven man that decides to take a memorable joyride in his Mercedes Benz. He ends up in his childhood neighborhood which is a portrayed as the ghetto, “the houses are squat,” and the picket fences are wire. He stumbles upon a market where he sees three thuggish men and a girl. He decides to ask for directions but does not notice the police cruiser that has been trailing him for miles. As he steps out, the police officer orders him to halt. As a sign of relief for the man, he reaches into his pocket for his ID, which was the last movement he made before the officer pulled the trigger. The police officer had the right to shoot the man. The police officer, “who is inexperienced, [and] who is nervous because of the neighborhood,” was placed in an inappropriate workplace environment. The incident would not have happened unless the police department stationed the officer in another ‘friendly’ area, so he could gain confidence and develop his communication skills with other people. Also, the department should have paired him with another experienced officer to shadow. We find clues about the setting that it was taken place during the 80s from the quote, “…he decides to call the next time he sees a store or phone booth.” The 80s was a time where police officers weren’t trained well and properly as today. However, it was also a time where cops only had hand-guns since tasers weren’t used until 1999, so his only option of defense was a pistol. In addition, he saw the man move after he is told to halt by the line, “he reaches his hand toward his wallet for his identity.” The man failed to obey the police officers’ orders which resulted in deadly consequences. The police officer did have the right to shoot that man because at the time, law enforcement was not trained adequately and provided the proper equipment therefore, put inexperienced on duty officers at risk, failure by the police department to place a nervous officer in a dangerous sector alone without a partner, and the man moved his arm after the officer told him to halt which resulted in fatal consequences.