Racism should not be tolerated in any of its many forms. Sometimes it’s blatant without any shame or regard to basic human morality and sometimes it can be more subtle, covert, and ridden with microaggressions but discriminative nonetheless. What does it really mean to let those Confederate monuments remain standing? What message does that send to the Black people America hurt during such a harsh era? That America does not care about them or their feelings, the pain they endured when America was the cruelest it has ever been? What about the message it sends to White supremacists? That racism is okay, that it is a country where racism and racist symbols and where intolerance will be tolerated? Is that really the side that America wants to stand by? America the Great, the nation that promises liberty and justice for ALL?

To begin understanding what exactly the Confederate monuments represent, and why it is that people want them gone, we first have to take a look at the history of it. The Confederate monuments were not immediately built after the end of the civil war, most were built in the 1890s and 1950s, which consequently was the era of the Jim Crow laws. Essentially, the monuments were a physical representation of White supremacy. It was saying, ‘stay in your place’, White people are better. And today, with the Charlottesville rally having happened only a few months ago, America seems to hold the same sentiment.

No matter how much Confederate monument supporters want to romanticize them, claim it as a part of their Southern heritage, or even contextualize these monuments, the reality is they are racist. They are emblems of White supremacy and will continue to be. The right thing to do is nothing but to remove these racist statues because there is no place for racism in America, it has
been there long enough. History will not be erased, history will not be forgotten. Black people carry their history with them everywhere. A very much still racist America will not let them forget after all. [And it is them that are telling you to remove these monuments of a glorification of people that fought to keep them in chains]. There should be no debate. If America strives to become a better nation, one where everyone is truly equal then America, land of the free, must do better.