

Project Description

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I am currently interning in the administrative department at the African American Policy Forum, an organization that works to dismantle the structural inequality that marginalizes the lives of Black people. In this role, I am supporting the organization's initiatives by creating social media content for the #SayHerName Campaign, a campaign that advocates for justice for Black women who have been victims of police brutality. Additionally, I am also supporting the organization to host its live podcast, Under the Blacklight. Specifically, I will be contributing to the content that would be shared during the podcast. Also, as an administrative intern, I will be supporting the furthering of AAPF's work by seeking grants and supporting the organization to apply for grants to fund its events. Additionally, I will be supporting the organization to communicate effectively with its donors and beneficiaries. Given these racially charged times, I believe AAPF's work is critical to understanding race relations in America and advocating for greater equality for all Black lives.

In the process of contributing to the important work AAPF does, I will be learning more about how a nonprofit is run on a day-to-day basis and how nonprofits manage the relationships between both their donors and their beneficiaries. Furthermore, because the AAPF is also a think-tank that often utilizes research and policy findings in its work, I will be learning how to utilize public policy and research findings in social work. While skills I am obtaining at AAPF will allow me to be a better advocate and public servant, my internship there is also very personal to me. Before I arrived in the United States of America in 2016, I knew very little about the history of and institutionalized discrimination against people of African descent. As a young Ghanaian, I was suddenly placed into an identity category labelled as "Black." At that time, I thought that being Black was simply another box to categorize me. It was until I took my first sociology class that I understood the full meaning of what the Black identity meant. Eventually, as a sociology major and a resident of the United States, I have become aware of the systemic nature of racism and criminalization of Black people.

As a person of African descent, I am drawn to this work because it is not only crucial to the survival and success of people who look like me, but it is also crucial to my own survival and success and that of my future children. In the wake of the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland and George Floyd and others, I am reminded that in some circumstances, the matter of Black lives is still up for debate. As a Black person who grew up in Ghana, it is imperative that I join the fight to reconstruct systems that marginalize Black lives in the U.S.