

Assignment Takeaway: Prejudice

Gunnar Cain

3/7/2021

Watching and reviewing Michael Richards' racially charged meltdown was both mentally and emotionally taxing. While I eventually concluded that he, himself, was not racist, it was very difficult to watch the video and make an objective determination. I almost felt bad about myself for coming to that conclusion, but I had enough information to do so effectively.

Although Michael Richards was not attempting to be funny, I can easily recall finding racially charged comedic material to be funny. Comedians Dave Chappelle, Jim Jeffries, and Eddie Murphy come to mind. While these jokes are often based off of stereotypes, it brings up an interesting thought: Is finding racially charged jokes amusing a form of modern racism?

We have previously delved into stereotyping and learned that it is a way to group people together. I am unsure that stereotyping is necessarily racist or prejudice, but I can determine that racism and prejudice can be used to stereotype others. My overall takeaway is that racism is not always the intent, but what we say can have an impact no matter the reason for saying it.