Stop and Frisk: Uncovering the Truth
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Introduction
- Stop and frisk is a term used when a police officer stops an individual for a body frisk search. A body frisk search is when an officer pats down a person in search for weapons or illegal drugs.
- There are people who believe most officers stop and frisk Black and Latino males because of their race.
- The effectiveness of stop and frisk has been clear, based on the New York City crime report. Most stop-and-frisk scenarios happen in areas with higher crime rates, which are areas where minorities live.
- The media portrays stop and frisk as an alternative way for officers to discriminate against Blacks and Latinos. The media makes the stop-and-frisk program look like a failure when it has actually helped reduce crime in New York City.
- Stop and frisk is a controversial program, but it provides New Yorkers with a safer environment.

Effectiveness
- If something was effective enough that it existed since the 17th century, why would we change it?
- In use for many, many years (dating back to colonies)
- Lowers the chances of violent crimes and drug abuse
- 150,000 stops in NY (15 month period)
- "The police power to detain and question is as old as the common law in England."
- "In 2014, 27,527 people were stopped and 22,862 were innocent (82%)."

Discriminatory
- Stop and frisk isn’t discriminatory.
- More than 90 percent of those being sought in New York City murder cases are described as being Black or Latino by civilians. (According to National Review Online “Stop-and-Frisk Works” by the editors (July, 7 2013)

Media Framing
- In the first half of 2014, New Yorkers were stopped by the police 27,527 times.
- The stop-and-frisk procedure may be initiated due to the fact that the area is known as a “High Crime area,” according to the International Journal of Police Science and Management.
- The city is on pace to have about 50,000 police stops this year, a 75 percent drop from the number of stops last year.
- “More black Americans and more Hispanic Americans are going to die,” said Fox News host Bill O’Reilly.
- “It will end in buckets of blood on city streets,” wrote The New York Post’s Andrea Peyser.
- New York City’s crime rate hit a 20-year low.
- 20 fewer murders so far this year than in the same period last year.

Conclusion
- The stop-and-frisk program might seem controversial because of the way it has played out. However, it serves a great purpose to society.
- The effectiveness of the program outweighs the myth of the racial discrimination in this case.
- The stop-and-frisk program is beneficial in terms of decriminalization.
- Stop and frisk seems racist because of the way it is framed by the media.
- For our nation to get past racial barriers, racism cannot be used to target policies and practices that some of us don't agree with.

Bibliography