**THE PEOPLE VS O.J. SIMPSON**

**ARTICLE 2 Q’S**

**“How video changed Americans’ views toward the police, from Rodney King to Alton Sterling”**

DIRECTIONS: Using a separate sheet of paper use the information in the article to answer the following questions:

1. What happened recently in Baton Rogue. LA that puts attention on the racial disparities in our criminal justice system?
2. What happened 25 years ago in LA that caused local riots and highlighted the distrust minority communities have toward law enforcement?
3. What movement over the past 2 years has placed the issue of how law enforcement polices minority neighborhoods in the national spotlight?
4. According to the graph tracking *Americans’ Confidence in the Police* on the front page of the article what has happened over the past 22 years?
5. What does the Gallup Poll believe is the critical factor behind the trend the graph demonstrates?
6. How can video hold police accountable?
7. What has helped get the protesters taken seriously?
8. What did the FBI data analyzed by Dara Lind show?
9. Even though this data and these statistics have been available and known for decades what has led to these issues getting attention recently?
10. What happened to Freddie Gray?
11. What is the historical background in Baltimore that made Freddie Gray’s fate such ripe ground for protests and riots?
12. Explain the settlements the city of Baltimore paid to more than 100 people. Even though police did not admit guilt what do those settlements indicate?
13. What helped lead to the criminal charges that were eventually filed against the police involved in Freddie Gray’s shooting?
14. What happened to Walter Scott?
15. When did it happen? (date)
16. Who is Michael Slager? And what did he claim happened?
17. What did the video of the incident show?
18. What well known police advocate even spoke out about the incident? What did he say?
19. Why was this a defining moment for protesters who had been speaking out about inappropriate use of force?
20. What happened in McKinney, TX?
21. Who was the officer who arrived first and how did he act upon his arrival?
22. What did the video show besides just the actions of the officers?
23. What is “implicit bias?”
24. What did the 2014 study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* say about police officers having a dehumanizing bias?
25. What did the same study show about how white, female college students feel about black children 10 and older?
26. What does empirical research reinforce about police responses to situations?
27. Do you believe “implicit bias” is a real problem? Explain.
28. Why did Sandra Bland get stopped by the police?
29. What request did the police officer make that Bland questioned?
30. How did Officer Encinia get Bland out of her car?
31. And while it is true that Bland could and maybe should have followed the request of the police officer who has the responsibility, the training and the expertise to insure a situation does not escalate?
32. What was the main complaint about the actions of the police in Ferguson, MO after the Michael Brown shooting?
33. What happened to Officer Encinia? Do you agree with the consequences? Explain.
34. What happened to DuBose?
35. What did Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters say about the DuBose case?
36. How did the incident report filed by University of Cincinnati describe what happened to Officer Tensing?
37. According to the video of the incident what really happened?
38. What would have happened without the video?
39. Why do you think society has a tendency to believe police over civilians?
40. Why does a prosecutor have to have a strong case to convict a police officer?
41. What did the video in the DuBose case prove about polce as witnesses?
42. What was Laquan McDonald doing on October 20, 2014 in Chicago?
43. How did Officer Jason Van Dyke respond to Laquan’s actions?
44. What did prosecutor Anita Alvarez do after the tape was released?
45. Why did many people feel Alvarez mishandled the case?
46. How long did it take her to release the tape to the public?
47. Why is the Justice Department’s investigation of the Chicago Police groundbreaking?
48. What is it going to be looking for in its’ investigation?
49. Why were the police called to the convenience store where Alton Sterling was?
50. What did the cellphone video showed happened to Sterling after the officers arrived?
51. If Sterling’s previous criminal record isn’t relevant to his case what does this article claim is relevant?
52. What must officers perceive in order to justify the use of force?
53. Consider the Gray, Scott, DuBose, Bland, Sterling and McKinney, TX, cases all have in common? Be specific and explain.
54. What are things that police can do to improve relationships and lessen tension between civilians and members of law enforcement? Be specific when describing steps that can be taken.
55. OJ Simpson, at the time of his arrest, was a former professional athlete, a movie star and a multi-millionaire who was respected and loved by most. Do you think he was treated with bias because he was a minority or did he receive special status because of his popularity in the community? Explain your reasoning.