

THE PEOPLE VS O.J. SIMPSON  
ARTICLE 1 Q'S  
"Violence & Racism Are Routine In Los Angeles Police, Study Says"

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

1. What conclusions did the independent commission draw from its study of the LAPD shortly after the Rodney King incident? (there were 2 major conclusions)
2. How did the current chief respond to the suggestion he slowly transition "out" of his position?
3. When was this study done (what year)?
4. What did the report say about the majority of LA's police officers?
5. What did the commission report mean by "illusory" citizen control?
6. What often happened to officers who were accused of repeated acts of excessive force?
7. How did the commission gather its information? Did the commission talk to citizens who had made the complaints about the officers? Why or why not?
8. What are minority officers often the target of?
9. What were at least 3 recommendations for changes made by the commission?
10. What is the Police Commission and what action did the commission panel recommend it take?
11. Why was the commission panel formed?
12. Who was Hubert Williams and what did he say about the commission panel and what he believed it would do for the nation?
13. When did L.A. Police Chief Gates say he would retire?

14. The commission discovered the problem was not in identifying which police personnel was the problem in regard to brutality. What did the commission say was the real issue?
15. What specific belief did the report list as “evidence of a serious problem in attitude?”
16. What happened when George Holliday, the amateur photographer who videotaped the Rodney King incident, tried to give his tape to the police department?
17. What were the structural changes the commission report urged the city of L.A. to make?
18. *Critical Thinking:* Looking at the last page of the article, consider the list of people who served on this commission. Do you believe this was a good panel to consider the condition of the L.A. police? If so why; if not what were the weaknesses of the panel?
19. *Critical Thinking:* Look back at question #3 and consider the date of the study. Now review and think about your answer to question #12. Has progress been made in relation to police and civilian relationships? Why or why not.
20. *Critical Thinking:* Do you think advances in technology, cell phone video, etc. have changed how police interact with the public? Explain.