Passage Mapping Racial Profiling:

Racial profiling: practice of law enforcement personnel to target people of minority races without cause.

Police, Community Need Cooperation, not Conflict.

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On a beautiful spring day I will never forget, I came face to face with bigotry and prejudice.

I was enjoying the company of my friends when his mother sent us on an errand to the store. As we were walking we saw a group of teenagers speeding by in a black Impala hanging out the windows screaming and shouting. Shaking our heads we continued to walk .

All of the sudden we were stopped by an East Pointe police officer. He spoke to us in manner that could only imply that he already judged us guilty of some crime and that we were beneath him. He started questioning us, asking us what we knew about the assault of an elderly man, what kind of drugs we had on us and where were we going. Since, none of us had any previous run-ins with law enforcement it’s not like like they could have picked one of our faces out. I felt like the next thing he was going to do was ask us for our walking papers.

The ultimate indignity came when more officers arrived and we were forceably searched, spread eagle on three squad cars. One of the officers even went so far as to say one of my friends “ I know you got some weed on you ” numerous times.
This personal experience is one example of criminalization of young black males in society. Criminalization is when there are laws put in place to imprison and harass certain groups of people. Criminalization effects whoever the minority of the population is. According to activist and author of *The Revolution Starts at Home,* Rachel Herzing, youths of color often deal with criminalization including the direct incorporation of police forces into school security, racial profiling, laws in many cities that prohibit young people from gathering, and images that portray them as out-of-control “super-predators”. Under these circumstances, basic social activities (such as walking to the store on a beautiful spring afternoon) become overlaid with suspicion.

I believe that in order for law enforcement to truly be effective a good relationship has to be established between the law enforcement and the people of the community. If not there will always be a negative connotation between the officers and the people. Having this tension will hinder the strides that the community and law enforcement can make to create a better, safer, more productive environment.

The irony of my story is that if the police had asked us if we saw anything instead of accusing us, we could have told them who really committed the crime…. the guys in the Black Impala.

**What is the author’s tone in this story?**

**Why does he believe the police searched him and his friends?**

**How does this show racial profiling?**

**Infer what types of problems racial profiling can cause?**