



May 2021

How White and Black America Experience Police-related Trials Differently

Watch:

[Minnesota News Cold Open - SNL](#)

Read:

[How A Minnesota Paper Is Covering The Chauvin Trial From The Black Perspective](#)

What it's about:

An April episode of Saturday Night Live took head-on the disparate reaction to the Derek Chauvin Trial as experienced by majority-Black and majority-white Americans. This month we've included a second primary link to inform an action-step after watching the SNL Cold Open - reading about the trial from the perspective of a local African American-owned paper in Minnesota.

Why it's important:

First, comedy is often one of the best ways to address the truth in a sensitive topic. Second, as a result of increased nationalization of news and local news outlets closing at significant rates, [Americans' news consumption often leads to confirming of their own perspective](#). A family-owned paper in Minnesota is bucking that trend and providing representation to a needed hyper-local perspective which also rings true to the experience of many African Americans nationwide.

Reflect and discuss:

- What news sources do you trust? Which do you watch, read, or listen to? Do these sources challenge you or provide you with a nuanced view of current events?
- How did you, if at all, follow the trial of Derek Chauvin in the news? In what ways do you think that is similar or different from others in your chapter or our national brotherhood?
- How can you and your chapter deepen conversations around these critical present-day issues?



Want to learn more?

- [African Americans and the Criminal Justice System from the American Bar Association](#)
- [Criminal Justice Fact Sheet from the NAACP](#)
- [The Nationalization of News and its Effect on Confirmation Bias](#)