

**Cameron Williams**

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**Grade 12**

### **Huey P. Newton**

Huey Percy Newton was a revolutionary co-founder of the Black Panther Party, founded with Bobby Seale. Politics came naturally to Newton because his father was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of colored People (NAACP). He was also named after the radical politician Huey Long who was the former governor of Louisiana. Huey P. Newton grew up poor and often found himself the victim in the cycle of racial discrimination. Although he attended multiple public schools, he felt he was never taught anything of value which forced him to self-educate himself. As he grew older he began to have more run-ins with the police, especially as a teenager. He became involved in politics while at Merritt college where he met Bobby Seale. The two formed the Black Panther party with the ideal of protecting the black community from racial attacks and police brutality. The party became very popular quickly and had members in several cities throughout the country. Newton, similarly to Malcolm X, believed in the use of violence to achieve his means and the party was soon deemed by the FBI as a threat to the nation. Eventually Newton's life increasingly became involved in a cycle of drugs and violence, and he often came into conflict with the Black Guerilla Family (BGF) which ultimately led to his murder at the hands of a BGF member.

Huey P. Newton has influenced me to strive to reach a place in society where my voice can be heard; A position of leadership. He has taught me the importance of being heard in a world where nobody seems to be listening. I understand that as a successful country we can not be divided by something as small as skin color alone. The world will not prosper if we can not come together as a country in order to fight for a greater cause. As a student attending an Historically Black College this Fall a personal goal of mine is to improve myself in order to better relations between citizens in this country overall. Racism is still a prominent issue in the world that can be seen on both sides of the spectrum. In many cases the black community feels as though we do not belong because we are not seen on a level of equivalence in the country of America. Whether it is the way we are treated or the halting of an entire civilization for hundreds of years; our treatment has never been equal.

As a young black man in the country of America I have the impression that I am treated differently from people of other races. Many races, like mine, face discrimination just because of the color of our skin. However, we have suffered from constant oppression for many years and yet still do not receive proper treatment as a whole. Due to the color of our skin we have been improperly labeled by many but Huey P. Newton did not stand up for our rights for no reason. The community in today's world would not be the same without Newton leading the community the way he did during the civil rights movement. Things are still not great in 2021, and you'd

think things would improve, but as a young black man in America, I still face daily obstacles that form me into the man I am today. A man who is fit to lead.