

# A Proposal to Research the Common Struggle of Minorities in the Work Force

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## Introduction

Being an African American in the 80s, oppression throughout your day to day life was a common occurrence. Weather it was racial profiling, police brutality, or ignorance in the work environment, a constant sense of frustration resulted from the black community. As a result, some turned this frustration into controversial masterpieces, as did Bill Gunn. Unfortunately, this oppression is still well alive today and has created protests such as the Black Lives Matter Movement and counter protests such as the All Lives Matter social construct. This exhibit will explore the common sense of frustration that continues to arise due to oppression and how the need to stand up and fight the popular opinion becomes more and more prevalent. The proposal will also include a statement, objective, annotated design plan, and annotated bibliography to show the depth of research and injustice.

The text shows the common struggles from jobs, to social ignorance, and social injustice. There is always large sense of tension hanging in the background whether it's frustration, sadness, or confusion, I can always feel a strong emotional presence within each conversation.

This artifact is a clean photocopy version of Gunn's typewriter written draft. The deep thought process, that produced such a controversial piece, can be seen through the many edits made by Gunn. From simple notes to exed out paragraphs Gunn's passion for perfecting *Rhinestone* is present.

I find the play interesting because it is such a parallel to my life, in the way that it is the struggle of these obstacles, in which you cannot control, constantly coming into play when you simply want to reach your goal. When reading the text of the artifact memories don't really come to mind, but a familiar feeling does. When the frustration arises within the black screenwriter as he attempts to defend his views against the majority, I can feel myself in his shoes. This is because I am passionate about social justice and the Black Lives Matter movement. Within this movement, the theme of empowering black people and staying true to your opinions is very present, which was a parallel to the play.

Being a biracial woman in America I feel as though I have a unique perspective to the social justice movements and race related events that have taken place in especially the past two years. At times, I can see the argument from both sides of the table which makes me more passionate about my opinions.

Bill Gunn is a writer who set out with the goal to weave race related issues, such as racial pride, into his plays and I have definitely started to notice that in *Rhinestone*. The common sense of frustration continues to arise throughout the play and the need to stand up and fight the popular opinion becomes more prevalent. I will go on to do more research

about social justice movements, such as the Black Lives Matter Movement, and find artifacts such as pictures, videos, and texts that connect back to the social injustice taking place in *Rhinestone*. This is why the proposal will include an introduction, statement, objective, annotated design plan, and annotated bibliography to show the depth of research and injustice.