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A man boarded a train one day in South Africa, and entered the first-class compartment. In his hand he held a valid first-class ticket. In the fear that he would contaminate the first-class compartment, since he was colored, the officials in the train asked him to leave and go to the third-class compartment. When he refused, a policeman came and threw the man out of the train. Who was this man? He was none other than Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest leaders of all time.

To understand the problem more, the cause of the discrimination itself should be found first. Since the law itself supported the discrimination, and was represented by the policeman, maybe the leader of that country was encouraging all of this and corrupting the ideals of citizens. Or maybe it was a passed down idea through generations, which is why it is important to teach otherwise now, so later this prejudice will not happen.

The incident on the train in South Africa with Gandhi is only one of many examples of a type of discrimination, specifically called racism. Racism is a very common and dangerous problem today, and has been for a very long time. But to the level of denying a person of their rights or more is a terrible idea that is nearly impossible for me to justify. Threats, actual physical abuse, and even something as small as a side comment all are examples. In 1963, when four young girls died at church in a bomb explosion in Birmingham, Alabama, it was simply because they were African-American, but they were entirely innocent. In the early 1920s and 30s a singer named Marian Anderson was denied the opportunity to pursue her career because she was colored. Most of the time, the victims or their families hardly ever do anything to stand up for themselves, because the attack weakens them. Leaders, such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., who have promoted fighting and banishing discrimination, are very good role models to follow.

Certain steps could be taken towards educating children, and then this problem wouldn't happen by the time they were grown up. For example, there could be classes in school targeted toward younger children, which introduces new cultures to them. In America, many people are unaware of a lot of the cultures around them, which makes other religious habits and customs foreign to them. If young students are made more comfortable with other cultures, then people who have a different race than them won't seem strange to them. Another thing would be to present the consequences of acts of discrimination to children. Students could learn about how many people have died as a victim of or fighting against discrimination, such as during the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Movement. Also, students should know about how a simple prejudice could lead to something as big as a war. If children can be educated today, then maybe tomorrow the world could be clean of discrimination.