REST IN POWER
THE TRAYVON MARTIN STORY

EPISODE FOUR: THE BURDEN OF PROOF
THEME: What does real safety look like?

Discussion: Aug 27 at 10pm ET
Watch along on Paramount Network or BET

Join our Twitter Chat during the broadcast:
#TrayvonMartinStory

TWITTER CHAT FEATURED GUESTS:
• Dante Barry, Million Hoodies, @dantbarry
• Danielle Sered, Common Justice, @daniellesered

DESCRIPTION: The Opportunity Agenda has partnered with Paramount Network to examine the theme of safety and what values are enforced in its name. This guide is meant to assist viewers in processing the content of the Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story docuseries and to spread awareness about the intersection and impact of racism on safety.

QUESTIONS:

1) The media coverage of George Zimmerman’s trial circulated images of Trayvon Martin that portrayed him in a negative light, capitalizing on racial anxieties in the country without acknowledging or discussing societal issues with race. As we see racial anxieties used effectively as a political tool in 2018, how can we have productive conversations about race?

2) The judge in Zimmerman’s trial ruled that racial profiling could not be presented in the prosecutor’s arguments. What might that reflect about the judicial process and its priorities? What changes must we see in the justice system for all communities to be able to be safe?

3) Commentator Sunny Hostin said the Zimmerman trial “became a catalyst for a new civil rights movement.” Do you agree? Looking back 6 years later, what are the opportunities for change that were sparked by that trial?

4) The defense encouraged the racist trope of the uneducated, angry Black woman by provoking Trayvon Martin’s friend Rachel into revealing her learning disability and showing anger on the stand. This portrayal plays into a long history of manipulating White fear against Black emotion. How can we work toward safer communities in the face of such deeply ingrained racism?

5) How can communities better protect children like Trayvon Martin? Which community-based solutions have the most potential to make safety a reality for all?