**Text 1  
Routine Patrol Duties Must Be Carried Out Without Consideration of Race**  
United States Department of Justice  
2003

Federal law enforcement agencies and officers sometimes engage in law enforcement activities, such as traffic and foot patrols, that generally do not involve either the ongoing investigation of specific criminal activities or the prevention of catastrophic events or harm to the national security. Rather, their activities are typified by spontaneous action in response to the activities of individuals whom they happen to encounter in the course of their patrols and about whom they have no information other than their observations. These general enforcement responsibilities should be carried out without *any* consideration of race or ethnicity.

*Example*: While parked by the side of the highway, a federal officer notices that nearly all vehicles on the road are exceeding the posted speed limit. Although each such vehicle is committing an infraction that would legally justify a stop, the officer may not use race or ethnicity as a factor in deciding which motorists to pull over. Likewise, the officer may not use race or ethnicity in deciding which detained motorists to ask to consent to a search of their vehicles.

**Text 2** [**Ethnic Majority**](http://www.ethnicmajority.com/)  
*What is racial profiling?*

The most common example of police racial profiling is "DWB", otherwise known as "driving while black". This refers to the practice of police targeting African Americans for traffic stops because they believe that African Americans are more likely to be engaged in criminal activity.

While racial profiling is illegal, a 1996 Supreme Court decision allows police to stop motorists and search their vehicles if they believe trafficking illegal drugs or weapons. More traffic stops leads to more arrests, which further skews the racial profiling statistics against African Americans. Studies have shown that African Americans are far more likely to be stopped and searched. Are African Americans really committing more crimes or are they just caught more often because the police target them? This is a vicious cycle that even the strictest law enforcement advocates would admit is patently unfair.

*What can you do if you are stopped?*

Civil rights attorneys advise the following:

1. Know your rights: you are not required to give permission to police officer to search your car. You can deny the request - but do so politely.
2. Don't argue: the police may try to intimidate you. Do not be confrontational and provoke an argument.
3. Get the names of the officers: be sure to get their badge numbers, squad car number, license plate number, and make a note of the location and time of day.
4. File a complaint if you feel you have been mis-treated: contact the ACLU or other civil rights organizations for legal advice.

**Text 3**

**Watch ACLU Video**

**Text 4**

**See MLK poster**

**Discussion questions**

To further your understanding of the texts, you can base a discussion on the following questions.

1. Which two texts are the most similar? Why do you think this?
2. Which texts were the most difficult to understand? How did your understanding of the text depend on the context of the text?
3. In Text 4 you see two faces. The face on the left is Martin Luther King, civil rights activist. The man on the right is Charles Manson, serial killer. Knowing this, how does your understanding of the text change?