**Streams and Rivers: Influences on Your Views**

**Background**: Like the streams and small rivers that come together to form a larger river, your views are made up of many factors. Some may have a large influence on your thinking on a specific issue, some a small influence. You may not even be aware of all the influences. In addition to what you come up with on your own, the following are possible kinds of factors that may influence your views: ● Your personal experiences ● Your personal values—what you believe is right and wrong ● Your self-interest—what you think will be helpful or harmful to you ● The experiences and ideas of family, friends, and other people you respect ● The news media.

**Prompt for Graphic**: ***Think about your views on the police. What factors contribute to those views?*** The graphic below allows you a way of graphically represent the factors that have influenced your views on the police. Put the things that have the largest influence on your views in the larger “streams” running into the river. Be specific. For example, don’t just write “my values,” write “I believe in fairness and I do/don’t think the police are fair.” You can have two streams that are the same kind of factor—for example, two streams could be two different personal experiences. You can also add more streams/influences than are shown in the drawing.

**Assignment:**

1) Complete the graphic below, by inserting the factors that contribute to your views on the police into the small rivers/streams that empty into the river. Feel free to add more streams/rivers if need be.

2) On the back of this page, in paragraph format, answer the following two prompts:

1. Based on your drawing, describe more in depth what influences your views on police. By completing the graphic, what insights did you gain into how your views have been shaped?
2. What can we learn about racism, both systemic and individual, by studying and discussing difficult episodes in history?