

PORTRAYAL & PERCEPTION

AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN & BOYS



Episode 12

Already Doing It

These young men have not waited until adulthood to make **positive changes in their lives and their communities.**



While this series has focused on successful African American men in a variety of careers, in this episode, four **African American boys are planting seeds for their own future careers, through education and collaboration.** Ronald Butler (15) designed and built the Piano Place park at age 12, Winston Nunley (11) uses his artistic skills to create a fashion line, Marino Swanson (18) interns at the Duquesne police department while also mentoring at an elementary school, and Tevin Mickens (18) blogs for the Huffington Post and is a regional leader for Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

FOR TEACHERS

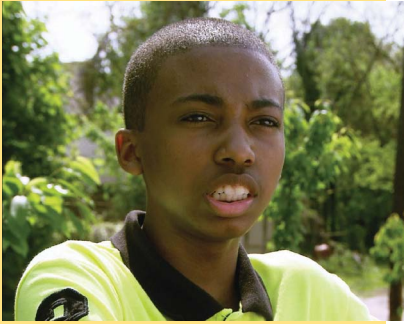
These guides are intended for use in sociology, information technology, media literacy, and social studies classes. Questions are geared for high school students, grades 9-12.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Portrayal & Perception: African American Men & Boys is a series of community-based television programs produced by WQED Multimedia showcasing positive media profiles of successful African American men. Sponsored by The Heinz Endowments, this series strives to inspire discussion, elevate portrayal, and clarify perceptions of African American men and boys in the community. This guide provides further information, discussion questions, and resources for students or groups to explore the topics highlighted in each episode.

It's not just one idea, one way. It's collaboration on ideas to make something amazing. – Ronald Butler

Biographies



Ronald Butler

Neighborhood: East Liberty

Any exciting things in your life that you are looking forward to?
I am looking forward to getting my learner's permit as well as turning 16.

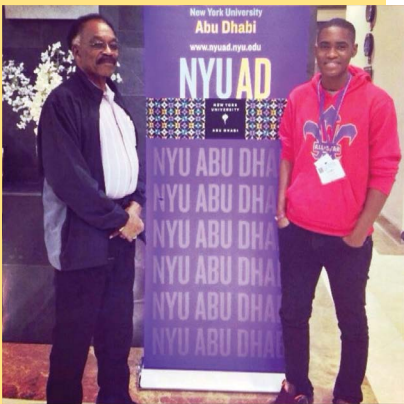
Who was your greatest mentor and how did he affect your life?
My greatest mentors had to be God for giving me the talent and skill for everything I have done, my mom for believing and supporting me, and my family for backing me up through my life.

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities you think African American men face in the world today? Some of the greatest challenges that most black males like me face would have to be racial profiling, stereotyping everyone to fit a certain look or persona.

What responsibility do you think African American male leaders have to the next generation? Black males like myself can stand up against all of those challenges and make a positive difference on the community, maybe even the state or further, to teach people that it's okay to be different.

Tevin Mickens

Neighborhood: Gibsonia



Any exciting things in your life that you are looking forward to?
I'm definitely looking forward to the beginning of my freshman year at Yale! I'm excited to meet my suite-mates as well as experiencing a great breadth of academic options.

Who was your greatest mentor and how did he affect your life?
My greatest mentor was my late father, Stanley Mickens. It is really not very easy to describe how he affected my life because he did so in such a variety of ways, some that I am sure are unbeknownst to me. To put it simply, he positively influenced my entire life, so much so that I know I wouldn't be as successful as I am today without his all too brief presence in my life.

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities you think African American men face in the world today? In the African-American community at large, there are several instances where boys lack a positive mentor in their lives. The repercussions of this, in addition to institutionalized discrimination, has been a detriment to the world many African-Americans boys live in. **Despite these negative factors, there has been an increase in support for these particular African-American boys, in the form of mentors, coaches and teachers.**

What responsibility do you think African American male leaders have to the next generation? African-American male leaders have the responsibility to not only portray themselves as positive role models but to constantly look for ways in which they can enrich the African-American community. Whether this be through philanthropy or leadership workshops, I think it's important that they give back to the community that, whether they recognize it or not, benefitted them on their paths to success.

Discussion Questions

My father was my inspiration. He was definitely a hard working businessman, and I could see his dedication. So I definitely think that influenced me.
– Tevin Mickens

CREATE YOUR OWN MEDIA!

Teachers, help your students create their own media. Download the [Media Guide](#) and [Common Resources](#).

1. What future careers interest you the most? Research possible internship opportunities that may be available in those fields and give it a try.
2. Have you started the college or career college search/application process? Talk to your guidance counselor or another trusted adult and begin to research the preparatory steps you should be taking.
3. Winston likes to design his own clothing, creating a fashion line. Using magazine clippings, pictures from the internet, or your own drawings, create your own fashions. What is the unifying theme of the pieces? Who do you envision wearing these outfits?
4. Do you see yourself as a mentor? Make an effort to talk to a younger person in your life and lend a helping hand. What does this experience teach you?
5. Tevin's mother encouraged her children not only to do well in school, but also to participate in an activity that sets them apart from other students. What activities do you do that others you know do not? Share these experiences and opportunities with your peers in a small group.

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

Tevin Mickens – Huffington Post:
www.huffingtonpost.com/tevin-mickens/

Jack and Jill of America, Inc.:
www.jackandjillinc.org

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation: www.phlf.org

Summer Dreamers Academy Camp:
www.pps.k12.pa.us/summerdreamers



Resources

Federal Student Aid: Website of the office of the U.S Department of Education, providing grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school — www.fafsa.ed.gov

A Guide for African American Parents – How to Help Your Child Prepare for College and Career (PDF): Study compiled by The Education Trust to help parents prepare for college and a career — [www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/AA%20Parent%20Guide\(web\)_0.pdf](http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/AA%20Parent%20Guide(web)_0.pdf)

4 Black Youth: Organizational website providing resources on careers, scholarships, and college preparation for African American students — www.4blackyouth.com

KnowHow2Go: Campaign designed to encourage students and veterans to prepare for college www.knowhow2go.acenet.edu

Get ready for College: College planning guide and workbook for students in grades 9 through 12 compiled by TERI College Planning www.asa.org/pdfs/asa_college_planning_docs/asa-cps-get-ready-for-college-en.pdf

Big Future: Planning website of The College Board providing college and career resources www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Life After High School - Young People Talk about Their Hopes and Prospects: National survey compiled by the Public Agenda of young adults age 18-25 and their beliefs in higher education <http://www.publicagenda.org/press-releases/go-college-get-job-how-young-african-americans-hispanics-asian-americans-and-whites-make-decisions-about-what-do->

Mapping Your Future: Nonprofit organization committed to helping students, families and schools navigate higher education and student loan processes — www.mappingyourfuture.org

Career Colleges: Website resource for Career Colleges throughout the country in a variety of disciplines www.careercolleges.com

U.S. Department of Education: Student website from the U.S. government providing college preparation, student aid, loan repayment information, and internship, jobs and volunteering information www2.ed.gov/students/landing.jhtml?src=ln

MEDIA

Dropout Nation: *Frontline* documentary film and accompanying articles on the daily struggle to help students graduate from high school and on the negative consequences of not doing so www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/dropout-nation

CafeCollege: One-hour program from KLRN exploring college admission assistance, financial aid guidance, college applications, SAT and ACT preparation, and future career opportunities with a live student audience — www.video.pbs.org/video/1906079403



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