Racial Profiling
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Introduction
Post September 11, 2001, there has been a shift in how racial profiling has been viewed as a tactic to fight terrorism. Government officials and people working in the Pentagon have viewed this as a necessary tactic but it has clearly led to a loss of liberties.

Materials and Findings
• Since 9/11, racial profiling has been mainly focused on Arab Americans, Muslims, and immigrants.
• More than 1,200 people - the majority of them Middle Eastern and South Asian - were detained without any reasonable charges. Many of them are still in detention a year later.
• The enactment of the Patriot Act and Bush's Terrorism Information and Prevention System (TIPS) is a major assault on our democratic rights and the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures.
• The Patriot Act has given the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, such as the NSA, the power to search people's homes and emails and tap into phone calls to detain "suspected terrorists." The TIPS program being introduced in 10 cities has allowed truck drivers, letter carriers, and computer and telephone repair workers to report and identify "suspicious" behavior that could be represented as terrorist activity.

Background
According to the Transportation Security Administration, there are almost 500 AIT (Advanced Imaging Technology) units placed in 78 US airports. The TSA is planning to deploy 500 more in years to come. This is a tactic used to prevent future attacks.

Research Question
How has surveillance based on racial profiling affected our human rights?

Conclusion
Racial profiling has affected the way people live and the ways they act socially. Benjamin Franklin once said "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." In the fight to end racial profiling, there are fundamental principles of democracy which our country is based on. Those principles need our vigorous protection.

References