

**Reparations**

**Possible Claims**

**These are possible argumentative claims that can be made on either side of the debatable issue on reparations.**

The U.S. Should Pay Reparations

The history of American racism is one of systematic exploitation of black people by official governmental policy, including and even after slavery.

African-Americans are currently suffering from vast levels of economic inequality relative to whites.

There are important historical precedents for providing reparations to African-Americans.

Historical wealth in the U.S. was created to a very large extent by slaves.

The U.S. Should Not Pay Reparations

Reparations will not be effective in improving the longer-term economic conditions of African-

Americans.

Reparations are unjust because they treat blacks and whites as a group rather than treating each person as an individual.

Reparations are extremely divisive and therefore would not be politically sustainable.

Reparations would be a serious distraction from programs that would do more to help African- Americans.