



Some African Americans have shown their anger towards society through music and lyrics, not least through rap music. Unfortunately some have chosen to voice their dissatisfaction through violence. Understandable or not understandable, this may not be the best way to fight injustice.

In his book *37 Things Every Black Man Needs to Know*, the author Errol Smith writes the following:

"I know what it feels to deal with the pressure of being a black man in White America. It's very real to me how poverty, racism, and pre-

judice can make you mad, because I've felt the anger and have struggled to deal with it myself. Yes, I definitely understand the anger, but ultimately, I found that getting mad was a waste, an incredible, unfortunate waste.

If you look around, you'll see that 'anger' is destroying the lives of many black men, black families, and black communities, which makes it very clear to me that learning how to deal with this anger is the very first thing a black man needs to know to succeed in America. My motto is: 'Don't get mad, get motivated – then get busy!'"



Ron Da Costa

🗣️ Ron Da Costa grew up in a neighborhood with a lot of crime. Listen to him talking about what it takes to be a winner. Take notes.

- **Compare Ron Da Costa's views with what Errol Smith writes in his book.**
– **Do they agree or disagree?**
- **How much does your background mean to you and how does it influence your opinions? Discuss with a classmate.**

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6 Free Writing Task

a Write the story behind the Rockwell drawing on pages 32-33.

or

b Write about a person or event that influenced the Civil Rights Movement.

or

c Write about integration and/or discrimination in your area.