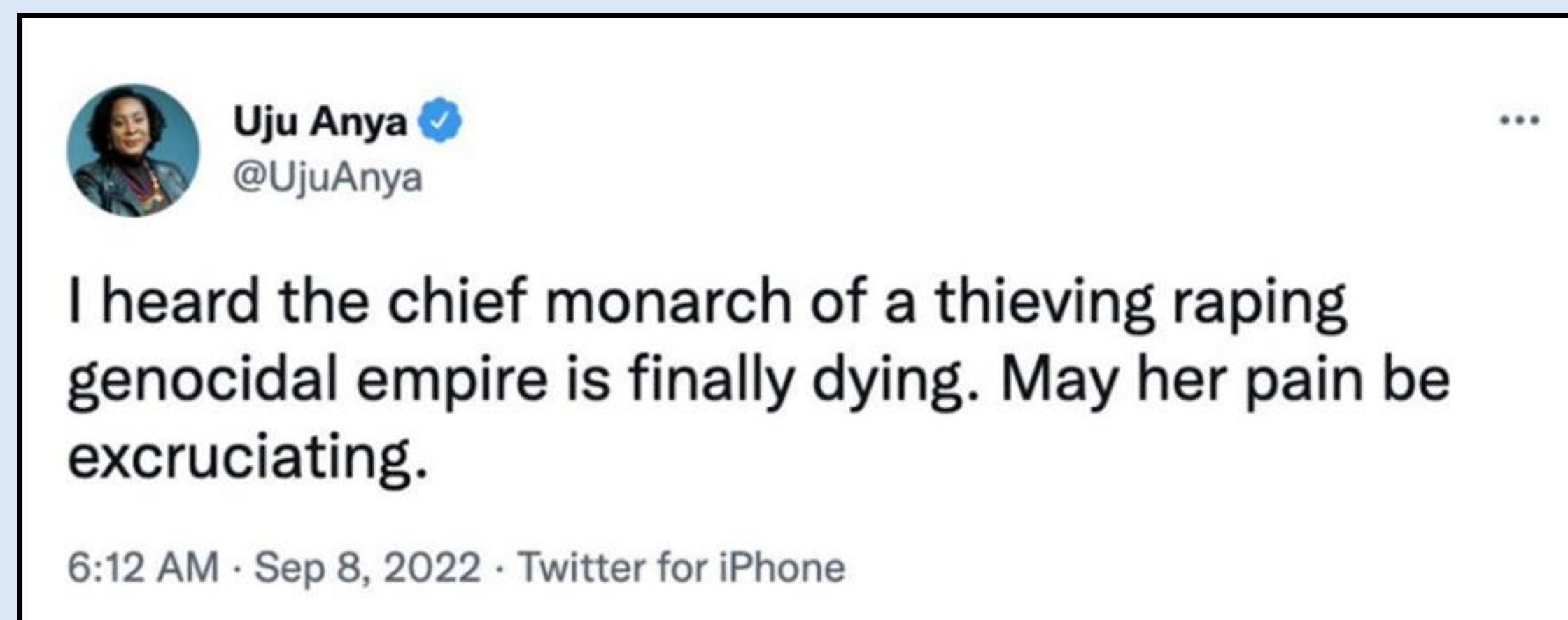
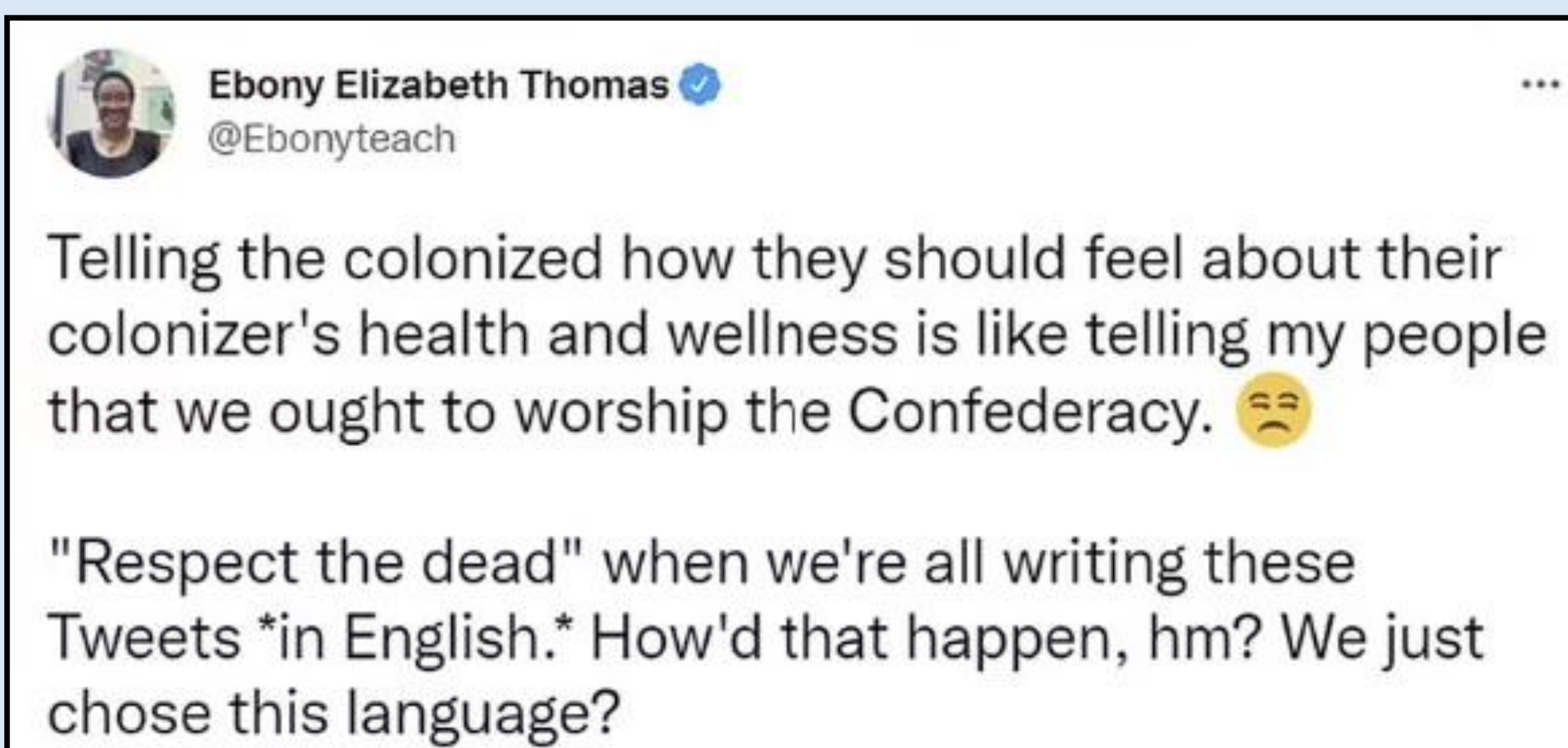


Issue:

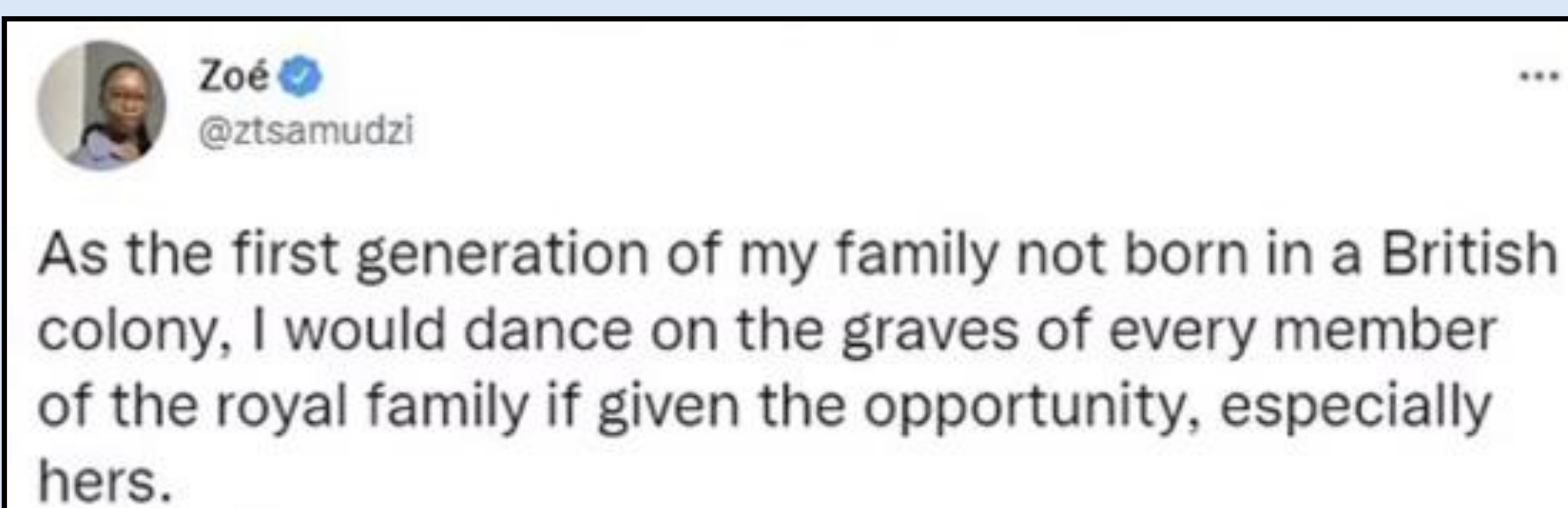
- After the Queen passed, professors from across the world took to social media to express their thoughts and feelings



- Carnegie Mellon University professor Uja Anya's Tweet blew up after Jeff Bezos responded saying: "This is someone who is supposedly working to make the world better? I don't think so. Wow." The University disavowed Anya's comment after Bezos' criticism



- University of Michigan professor Ebony Elizabeth Thomas and Rhode Island School of Design professor Zoé Samudzi also posted numerous Tweets, both commenting on the Queen's passing and criticizing the Queen



Ethical Questions Raised:

- Should professors or educators be allowed to have social media accounts and share personal opinions?
- Can obituaries or articles about the dead mention negative things or does it violate the practice of "don't speak ill of the dead?"
- Does leaving out negative things about a dead person violate the journalist values of objectiveness, truth, and fairness?

Research:

- Obituaries are important due to "collective memory," or the meaning a community makes or gives its past (Edy, 1999)
- The importance of impressions after death are highlighted by obituary research
- Although Tweets are not obituaries, social media is often seen as a journalistic voice because most members of the public cannot distinguish between the two (Cox, 2020)
- In a study done, journalists who wrote former President George H. W. Bush's obituaries showed conflict over how to handle the issue
- "You tend to want to be kind because they're at the end of their life. You want to note the things they did that were good and the things about them that were valuable, but you're still a reporter. I mean, you're still a journalist, and you have an obligation to mention the difficult as well as the easy, the negative as well as the positive," (Adams, 2022)

Philosophers' Take:

- Aristotle:** would aim to avoid the extremes of excess and deficiency, thus would probably recommend a moderate path where negatives are included, but not the sole focus
- John Stuart Mill:** believes the person who died is not more important than everyone else so neither are their wishes, thus it may be most valuable to everyone to have a more accurate, fair description
- John Rawls:** his veil of ignorance test would likely lead many to choose a middle road option because you wouldn't want to be represented poorly if you died but as a civilian you would want the truth
- Immanuel Kant:** would say the imperative to tell the truth has no exceptions so the sentiment that we should not speak ill of the dead does not matter