

The Vibe at UC San Diego
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My experience with the campus climate has not been rough as I expected it to be. Prior to the school year beginning, I was part of the summer bridge 2016 group where I met a diverse group of pupils. We spent hours and hours team bonding, learning about each other, policies of UC San Diego, what it takes to be a Triton (feel involved), and many other important aspects to consider. A key element we spent crucial time on was including ourselves with other students, disregarding where they came from or believe. By playing team games, having suite meetings, random conversations during meal times, it was possible to connect to just about anyone. I challenge Kong's analysis of Asian Americans being ignored because everyone has a voice to speak aloud, and during summer bridge, every vote and opinion mattered. For example, in the suite meetings, I was surrounded by a mixture of races like Caucasian, Mexican-American, African American, Asian. Anytime we had an issue or a thought that we had to express the floor was ours.

During the school year now, I continue to challenge Kong's analysis of Asian Americans idea that Asian American organizations focus on cultural activities only because in a special lounge where I study nearby Warren College, there is a fraternity of women and men who gather almost everyday. Speaking to a few members, their purpose of their group is very round because they worry about volunteer events, cultural opportunities, fundraisers, and social events to make a change in the environment. Rather than staying with the belief that we are not included because we are meant to be the "model minorities" for others to follow, they create a new image that we are just humans who want to make a positive influence on and off campus.

The reading did not change my view of the UC San Diego campus climate because the experience has been different to me, where many associations of different races constantly ask me for my involvement or opinion as I stroll down library walk. The climate of the campus is welcoming and although not really diverse, it is very reassuring to have the ability to start a conversation to anyone and know that my words matter.