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CAT 1A

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Reading Response #5



This picture represents how I feel at UC San Diego. I am represented by the blue tack, as the minority among the rest. Student research at UC San Diego shows that the two major ethnicity groups at UCSD are Asian and Caucasian, making up 67 percent of the undergraduate population and only 3 percent is Latino. Like the blue tack in the picture above, I feel surrounded by the other population groups and I sometimes feel a sense of not belonging. However, I don't see it as a weakness or as a negative thing anymore, I see myself being a minority as a strength and as something that makes me unique from the rest because I bring something new to the table.

In her fourth chapter, Angela Kong uses the Compton Cookout events that occurred at UC San Diego as a means of commenting on the issue of Asian Americans being described as the “model minority” (Kong). Kong describes the racist generalization that all Asians living in the United States supposedly possess “superhuman abilities” by being very intelligent in all that they do. This common generalization has led to Asian Americans being excluded from participating with other Americans just because they look different. Throughout her fourth chapter, Kong also details how there is a lack of education and awareness of Asian American history and its effects on students of Asian descent at universities when it comes to them being part in activist activities. My views of UCSD’s campus climate has certainly changed after reading this fourth chapter because it has opened my eyes to social issues against a major population that occur in everyday life on campus.

Being a Hispanic male, I am a part of minority group as well so my experiences at UCSD also coincide with what Kong talked about in her fourth chapter. I feel like there is a common misconception that since UCSD is located relatively close to the Mexican-American border, that there is a huge Hispanic population attending UCSD. However, this is not the case. I came from a city where the majority population was Hispanic and I grew up in that environment where I was a part of the majority population. However, being at UCSD and part of a minority group feels uneasy with me because I’m not used to seeing such few people of color on a daily basis. I feel like organizations such as the Raza Community Center and other Hispanic-oriented groups do make life at UCSD feel more like home to me.

I feel like UCSD’s campus climate is relatively lopsided in the sense that there seems to be somewhat of a lack of diversity. However, by no means has this led to any discrimination, at least not from what I’ve experienced. I believe that UCSD does a really good job making sure

everyone feels included, regardless of race, color, or gender and I really appreciate that. The campus climate might seem like it isn't diverse, but it does treat everyone equally and I see a slow but progressive move to becoming a more diverse campus.

Works Cited

1. Kong, Angela W. Re-Examining Diversity Policy at University of California, San Diego: The Racial Politics of Asian Americans, University of California, San Diego, Ann Arbor 2014.<http://search.proquest.com/docview/1554345915?accountid=14524>.