

Reading Response Five: Campus Climate



My experience of being a student at UCSD has been very limited to academics, which means that I have not been able to truly grasp the extra curricular aspect of the school. However, it has been very hard to ignore the social and political activities that occur on a daily basis around campus. I cannot honestly say that I have a good understanding of UCSD's political climate, however it is evident that it is alive and thriving. My personal experience of the campus climate comes from a variety of sources. My residential advisor is someone who is very politically active and she strives to inform my apartment complex of various issues such as breast cancer awareness and black history month. A bigger scale act of political activation on campus was when students

marched around campus to show their discontent with the election results. My point is that I came to this school because I wanted to be apart of change, so I was already aware of the type of school I was attending. Learning about the tensions between the administration and different student organizations further reinforces the progress the school has made and the motivation that members of UCSD has to fight against injustices. My experience thus far has also backed up that notion, however I never thought of the fight for racial equality at UCSD in the way Kong described it. Kong's analysis of the position of Asian American students at UCSD brings to light a new way of thinking of racial inequality for me.

The collage above represented the words that I felt best defined what it was like to be part of the UCSD community. This building and its neon lights had intrigued since the first night I stayed on campus. I believe that UCSD has great 'pride' and are a campus that fights for 'justice.' The students have 'hope' for a greater future, and have the 'fortitude' to fight for the future they want. They are 'angered' by injustices and will act accordingly. Finally, the UCSD community shows an immense amount of 'charity' to those in need, whether it be through their time or material wealth.

Overall, Kong's reading did change the way I thought of UCSD. I always knew that UCSD was a progressive school that had a student body fighting for real change in society, starting with the UCSD community and administration. However, I never realized the extent in which Asian American's were a group that also had their own struggles because of the sheer number enrolled in the school. Ultimately, the campus climate is one that is socially progressive, and under constant battle for justice and equality. I see this through the way students and even professors engage in the politics at the school when a significant event such as the Compton Cookout occurs.