

Attending UCSD as an Asian Student: Reading Response 5



Since I got into college, I had a feeling that my self-confidence was getting lower. At first, I just thought it might be because I'm not doing so well in academic as I did in high school and as I expected. However, after I read Kong's analysis, I found out that ultimately it was because Asian students are considered as a model minority.

In general, Asian American students are expected to perform well in academic. For example, I'm taking Chemistry course for the fall quarter and I am struggling in that class. So one day, when I was walking back to the dorm with my classmate after the lecture, I told her that I'm not doing so well in that class. However, she told me back that she don't believe it because I must be smart. I didn't know how she could conclude that I must be smart because we haven't studied together and I've never told her my test score. But when I think about it now, I think she thought like that because I am Asian and she thought most of the Asian students must perform well in academic. Not only her, but also most of the people around the campus and even myself had same thoughts on Asian. And that was why my self-confidence was getting lower. People around me expected me to do well in academic but I could not satisfy their expectation. I was binding myself in an invisible chain which forced me to do well in academic.

After I read Kong's article and found out that there's less support for Asian students than other minor races and some professors might expect more from me than other students just because I am Asian student, I was little disappointed about UCSD campus climate. It might be partially true that Asian students tend to perform well in academic. But that doesn't mean that every Asian student should be successful. Issues related to Asians are easy to be ignored because many people think Asians are model minority. But this issue should be fixed in order to achieve better campus climate.