

Reading Response #5

Campus Climate: Diverse



In Angela Kong's, *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*, she delves into the aspects of the Asian American experience in UCSD. Kong argues that Asian American students are seen as the game changers in terms of how UCSD is trying to implement a sense of diversity within the UCSD campus. She explains that because of the large population of Asian students they are seen as the "model minority" in which they are predicted to excel in college because they are Asian. Since this bias is the overbearing factor which each Asian students are judged on, statistics which show Asian American bachelor degree holders fail to show the low Southeast Asian bachelor

degree holders which counter the idea that Asian Americans are easily getting into high level colleges. This shows the unfairness that circulates UCSD in which Asian Americans who are a minority group everywhere else are not rightfully given opportunities as other minority groups because of their large population in the UCSD campus.

The reading did change my perspective of the UCSD campus in various ways, but I would argue that the most influential way in which Kong's article changed my perspective of UCSD is that it widened my view of Asian American students. Initially, I felt that because I am a minority myself I would feel out of place or unimportant. After realizing that my minority group is treated with more attention with the simple inclusion of the La Raza Research Center I came to the conclusion that I should not feel unimportant and instead I was left with a feeling of confusion. I was confused as to why UCSD would not cater to its largest population which is the Asian population, they have no real research center such as La Raza Research Center and it amazes me that even after this article was released action for the development of one has still not been implemented, at least not to my knowledge. Although I have been given a new perspective toward UCSD after reading this article, I do not see the climate of the campus as a "toxic" climate. I feel that it is not this type of environment because in some way I feel that we all universally want to promote an environment where we all feel safe and can share our ideals without being discriminated or hated. Yes, UCSD has its shortcomings, but I feel the students make the climate instead of statistics on a piece of paper.