

Reflection about the racist events in campus: Reading Response 5

After reading Kong's essay, I was impressed by the actual situation of Asian Americans in UCSD and their understanding and opinions about all these racist movements happening at recent years. These things are very different from what I had thought before and they changed some of my previous views about this campus.

As an Asian and international student myself, at the first day when I entered UCSD, to be honest, I actually was not too overwhelmed by all the new and unacquainted things going around me, because I saw lots of Asian faces just like me and it gave me a sense of familiarity. At that time, I didn't feel like a minority. During these two months, I joined an Asian American club and spent most of my time with Asians around me. I didn't feel excluded by other communities in this campus and truly realized the existence of this "model minority". Indeed, my Asian identity helped me better understand and experience this new environment in these two months.

In this essay, however, Kong pointed out a completely different aspect of Asian American's situations and lives, which contradicted a lot with what I've experienced. Maybe this is because I just have been here for only two months and therefore barely understand all these conflicts going on. For example, I didn't see the importance of Black and Asian community working together to address these social justice issues before. In Compton Cookout event, Asian American could help Black community more but in fact most of them chose to keep silence. They also didn't realize that even though this event obviously aimed at black community, Asian American and other minorities were also part of the target of it and that the cross-cultural activism was the most useful weapon in this case. And also because of the absence of literature and courses related to Asian American history and cross-cultural activism, they were lack of

knowledge about their own history about fighting to have their voices and working with other communities and even still struggled to understand themselves. And therefore they failed to realize their inevitable responsibilities and rights to fight against Compton Cookout event. Instead, they just chose to study and became academically successful.

Overall, I am really glad to be a part of UCSD. Even though there are still some racist movements happening these days, I noticed that both the students and faculties are trying really hard to address them and some efforts already turned out to be effective. As an Asian, I hope that more and more Asian American can realize their importance in this process to ending all these racist events and really starting to help and work with other minority groups such as BSU.