

Bob at Playfair

I will always remember the Playfair event I had during my freshman orientation. It was an event in which consisted of icebreaker games that would introduced me to a ridiculously large amount of freshmans in a short amount of time. During one of the icebreaker games, I had a conversation with a guy (I will call him Bob in this case) that I had gotten paired up with for several minutes at the time. We had both introduced ourselves and had a small conversation as we were waiting for the next instructions in the game.

Bob: So your last name is pretty cool! You look like you could be Filipino but that is not what your last name tells me.

Me: Thanks! Well I'm actually Hmong, it's a minority Asian group and not many people know what it is.

Bob: Hmm, yeah I have not, but interesting to learn something new. How about your major? For me, I am a computer science major that really likes math.

Me: For right now, I declared myself as a Biochemistry major. And that is cool that you enjoy math.

Bob: Thanks! I mean I have to like math. I am Chinese after all. Are you into math?

Me: Math is something I could do to an extent but it is not really my favorite subject.

Bob: That is okay, you are still going to be able to get into medical school. Wait are you planning to go to medical school?

I will always remember this brief conversation that I had with Bob because of the fact that he continuously made generalizations towards not only me, but also with himself. It was pretty typical to hear from non-Asians those specific stereotypes, but it was something new to hear another Asian making those same assumptions towards me.