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Haiku Poems:

In America

I walk around school
UCSD includes all
Who is everyone?

African, Asian
Mexican, European
Indian, Native

Titles define me
I am just American
Why can't I be me?

Reading Response Five

The University of California San Diego is just like the rest of the United States. We are in the middle of an age where the American society is making a conscious effort to expand the reaches of equality in society. Unfortunately, there are no rule books, learner's manuals or guides to tell America how to do that best. UCSD has not been immune to difficulties regarding inclusion and racism. Kong's analysis of the campus climate affirms my view on ongoing struggle of combating racism on campus and making the overall American narrative less about us verses them.

Through reading Kong's analysis on UCSD's campus climate, I found myself relating to the examples she gave. I am half European mix and half Vietnamese, which has made me aware of the absence of opportunities for the Asian American community. I came to UCSD with the goal of finding a community of people I could identify with. As I walk around campus, I regularly see signs for clubs supporting the African American/black community, the LGBT+ community, the Mexican/Latino community, and other communities. They advertise that their organization has the ability to make you feel at home. Being new to UCSD I do not know all the resources that this campus has to offer, but I have noticed that the resources for minority groups generally exclude Asian Americans. I have found myself wondering why there appears to be a lack of support for all minority groups within American culture, including the Asian American communities.

However, even if the resources offered on campus included a community that supports equal opportunities for Asian Americans, I am not convinced that it would eliminate the feelings of expulsion amongst minorities. Since I do not identify as being

only Asian or only European blend, but rather just as American, categorizing myself as one race would neglect the diversity of my background and create a barrier between me and both the Asian and European communities. Finding a community based on my racial background would not create a community that would make me feel at home.

America and UCSD are becoming increasingly diverse. There are millions of different people in the United States and if we were to make communities solely based on race then there would be a separate community for everyone. To make a campus and a country that embraces these ethnic differences and treats everyone the same, we must remove the unnecessary segregation that perpetrates black and white thinking and creates borders.

Work Cited

Kong, Angela. "Ch. 4." *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. N.p.: n.p., 2014. 82-109. Print.