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Reading Response 5

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Throughout my involvement at UCSD, I have indirectly experienced Kong's assertion on the campus climate. Since I'm often around other Asian Americans, I lack the understanding on how other ethnic groups perceive the Asian American community. In fact, I had to learn how people felt towards other minority groups to properly understand Asian Americans' place on this campus. During the middle of the quarter, many chalked messages negatively targeted the Latino minority group. Even though I wasn't directly affected, I had become aware of the campus' divide between Asian Americans and the other minorities as each ethnic group is labeled differently. Unlike the other minorities, the model minority myth characterizes Asian Americans as successful and self-capable. In comparison to his analysis, I would agree that the historical knowledge on these ethnic groups partake in society's overall perception on the Asian American community. Many history classes tend to focus on the civil rights movement, but briefly discuss Asian American history and their struggles. Despite the Asian American community constituting a big part of the university's demographics, we are often overlooked by the other minorities.

After reading chapter four of Kong's dissertation, I developed a new mindset and towards UCSD's campus climate. In reference to Adichie's TED talk, students and staff often view one another through the popularized "single story." These judgements tend to exclude the unique history behind each individual which questions the campus' diversity policy. People shouldn't assume an individual's ability to do something based on their ethnicity, but rather on their past experiences. Although Kong has highlighted the problem regarding the Asian American community, the campus still lacks proper education around overlooked minorities. The lack of an Asian American resource center excludes and hinders much of the campus' population and is a problem for current and future students as they're missing an important part of their support system.