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Reading Response 5

Before I read the text, the author assumed I knew that University of California, San Diego, a university that now praises its diversity and is welcoming to people of color had a history of racism. I am shocked by the brutal truth. The series of racist events described in writing give birth to a feeling in my guts that I overestimated the purity and genuineness of its diversity. It is easily for a person who has not yet spend enough time on this huge campus to feel either she is being treated equally with other kinds of individuals or she is entirely excluded from the environment. I do feel excluded when there are people who already are friends before they came here; when the dining place does not sell Chinese food. But it is never the feeling of being blocked away because of my skin color. So, the author's straightforwardness in talking about the inequality and all the gives targeting events an astonishment to me.

When reading through the text, I found out that I do experience the indifference our race shown to political issues. We care more about cultural and social activities. We will be interested in setting up for Chinese New Year and holding a party, but we do not want to get together, to let our voice heard, to gain the rights we deserve, fight to be treated equally. Then I start to form my kind of conclusion that combines my thoughts regarding the issues the author discussed.

After I had finished reading this text, the author wanted me to believe that African American students tried hard for their resources and benefits at UCSD, but Asians students, being isolated at the same time are not politically involved, suffer from the de-minoritization

effect and be excluded from all benefits a minority can gain.

I see articles on our Chinese website saying that the reason Chinese and other Asian are not enjoying as many benefits as the African Americans do is that we want to minimize the chance to get ourselves in trouble. We have a saying “try first to make their mistake sound less severe and then to reduce it to nothing at all.” So, when it comes to affirmative actions, we back down and try to minimize the effect. Our culture teaches us to wait quietly, tolerate wrong things, and be peaceful. Sometimes this gentle attitude can be taken as cowardice. And that weakness originated from the feeling that we are not supposed to say anything since we are on the land that does not belong to us, it is not our home where we make things happen. So most of the time we do not take action and be politically involved in things. Especially when affirmative action is a taboo back in our origin. We are used to the type of thought: listen to your government, and if you dare to protest, you will be punished harshly. Asians are locked in a box by their culture.

The author was not successful in changing my view, even though the author give enough quotes from many Asian interviewees saying that our indifference towards policies of racial climates at UCSD is causing the loss of our benefits as being a minority.

The author leads the discussion to a one-sided bias: you criticize the lack of studies of Asian cultural at UCSD, condemns the lack of lines of communication that make others do not understand us and at the same time you judge the Asian Americans not being politically active and say they do not care about the community of minority students just because they only do not protest like other minority groups. And I just stated in the fourth paragraph; Asians are shaped that way by our culture. So simply the author does not have adequate knowledge of Asian culture

and just saying Asians do not care. The author is just the leading image of those who does not understand Asians and further caused their de-minoritization. The truth is: we do care, and our following generations are doing their best to make our voice heard by working hard to be the people that lead the country.