

Natasha Daswani

TA: Ken Saragosa A07

### UCSD Campus Climate Reflection



In Angela Kong's fourth chapter of *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*, she focuses on the lack of support that Asian Americans receive at the school. Not only a lack of support regarding the aftermath of the Compton Cookout, but also in an Asian American's everyday life. After the Cookout, the policy demands made by student leaders, including the Black Student Union, did not meet the needs of Asian American students. Asian Americans are expected to be model students, being able to get perfect grades while also not dealing with racial prejudice that does exist. Being an Asian American at UCSD, I understand Kong's intentions as an author and am more aware of her and other students concerns.

To me, UCSD's campus climate has always felt welcoming yet challenging. After reading Kong's introduction and fourth chapter, I do realize now that Asian American concerns were not a priority to the UCSD administration. My view on UCSD has not completely changed, but it was eye opening to read about a struggle that I did not know existed. This struggle includes both the racism minority students face and the grades they are expected to receive. During my first quarter here, the first thing I noticed was that many of the students were Asian. And just as students and administrators assumed, I believed that every Asian student effortlessly worked hard and became successful. Kong's fourth chapter allowed me to feel okay with my struggle of understanding my challenging school work. Knowing that Asian American students, besides myself, are struggling with the idea of being a model minority comforts me. My collage represents what the campus climate is like for me because I do feel as if I fit in with my peers, but I also feel the constant need to be studying to maintain the expectations, like becoming a doctor, that exists around Asian Americans. Overall, Kong's fourth chapter made me to feel both surprised and at ease with my experiences as an Asian American student at UCSD.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. "Introduction." Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD. 2014.

Kong, Angela. "Ch 4." Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD. 2014.