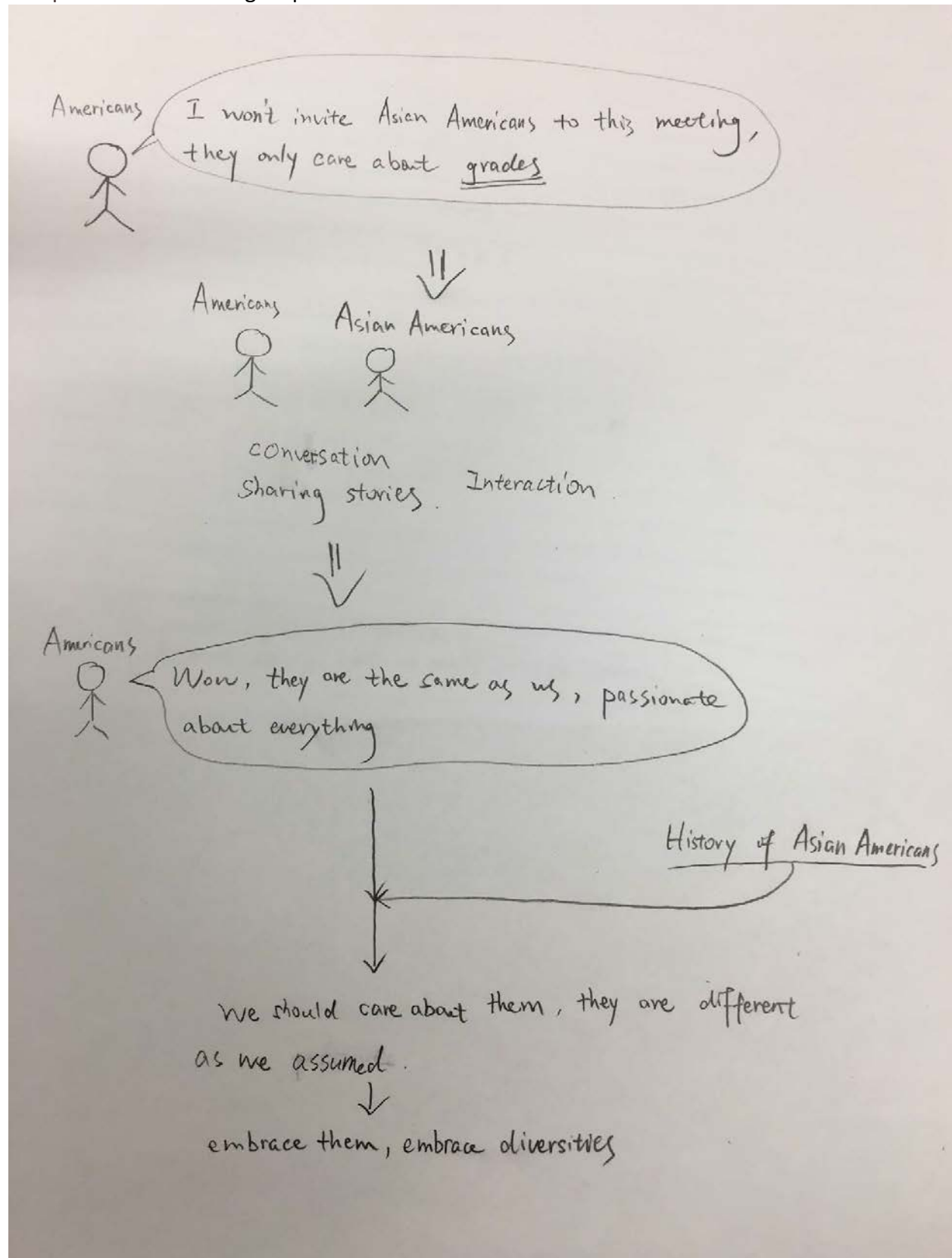


Campus climate: Reading response 5



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The reading did challenge my original opinion and let me rethink about the position of Asian Americans in the US, but it did not change my point of view. It challenged me because I considered, from the perspective of a native Chinese student, the Asian Americans as Americans with no difference from other Americans. Due to the immigration from other Asian countries to the United States, they should have received the same cultural and political education as other Americans during the study in the US. As stated by my final project interviewee, an immigrant from China, "my children cannot fully understand Chinese culture because they were not born in China and they act almost like Americans". So, I do insist that the difference between Asian Americans and Asians who are not Americans exists and confuses the perception of Americans about Asian Americans. This is the most important reason that caused the unfair treatment talking in the reading. I agree with the author that the absence of education on history of Asian Americans caused the bias. Non-Asian Americans may perceive Asian Americans as Asians but Asian Americans are Americans, not Asians. Asians may maintain the characteristics of easy success in grades, but Asian Americans are not the cases since they went through the same course of education and live in the same academic environment. They are part of the country and contribute to this country. The misunderstanding of the two totally different groups of people caused the easily perceived differences in treatment by school policy and students. I remembered when we, a randomly divided group of freshmen, had a conversation about our identities during the orientation, an Asian American student said that she was always asked whether she was a Chinese when she had a conversation with other people. It can tell that people sometimes preserve pre-assumptions about a kind of people, not concerning about the background of a specific person who may have different experiences. Due to the increasing number of international students, especially from Asian, Americans became much more difficult to differentiate Asian Americans and Asians. Thus, Asian Americans who receive education in UCSD may always be treated unfairly, as I perceive, because they were recognized as Asians. While through communication between people and sharing about stories about each other, different treatment among campus become less. Nowadays, the campus has no gaps between Asian Americans and Americans- they played together and studied together as I saw in campus, an Asian American can be a group leader in a club directed by a white person- and it even welcomes diverse cultures brought by international students and is willing to get involved with more people from different backgrounds. The campus climate to me is welcoming, accepting, embracing and interchanging differences and diversities.