



#### CAT 1 Reading Response 5

This reading has slightly changed my view of UCSD. I too am a minority here at UCSD as I am from Turkey. Kong says in his text that a part of the reason asian minorities are neglected is because their histories are not made conspicuous to people, thus they only have given views and stereotypes about asian minorities, such as saying all people with squinty eyes are asian but not Filipino or Chinese. Likewise, Americans don't know anything about Turkey's history, so they don't know about the fact that I actually live on the european side of Turkey, or even that Turkey has a european side. Not that it really makes a difference, but this lets people label me immediately as middle-eastern or asian. This means that they put me in the same category as Syrians and Arabs, which I have no problem with, but it just shows how little they care about us. They wouldn't even bother getting to know what makes the middle-eastern cultures so

different from each other when they could be lazy and call us out with just one phrase: middle-eastern. I was already aware of this fact, which is why this text has slightly changed my view of UCSD but not much. It made me realise something I already saw but never put into words. However, I highly disagree with how Kong thinks that asian culture and activism history should be taught. If they were to do that wouldn't it hinder the privileges other minorities had on campus? I don't see any Turkish or Arabic students looking for a middle-eastern inclusion program. In my opinion that would only be admitting a problem that is not even there. We have inclusion problems too, I'm not saying we don't, but CAPS is highly capable of helping us resolve our problems and find ways to ameliorate our college experiences. The fact that asian minorities are larger in number does not mean that they have it worse but only means that they can speak louder than us; loud enough to encourage Kong to write about it. It is a good thing to discourage ignorance and educate people, but we have to keep in mind that by categorising ethnicities we are almost asking for them to be prioritised. It's really not that hard to imagine that there's no countries or ethnicities. We would have nothing to fight about. Just like John Lennon said.