

Reading Response 5



I chose a picture I took of UCSD's Geisel Library to express my experience of the campus climate. As we are attending a prestigious, academically driven university, the majority of UCSD students spend a lot of time at the library, studying and working on group projects or homework. My experience of the campus climate is one where everyone, despite their cultural

differences and various upbringings, work together and strive to reach their common goal: to succeed at UCSD. Whether it is getting a high GPA, being involved with several school activities, participating in research, or anything that achieves one's personal goals for college, I believe UCSD to be a campus that allows for it to happen. The campus library is a perfect example for the academic aspect of one's goal, as it is a place where any student of any ethnicity is welcome to study, individually or collaboratively, and is able to easily access resources they might need, such as computers, white boards, and quiet study rooms. Geisel Library is an inclusive and diverse space on campus that provides an equal opportunity for all students to thrive academically at UCSD.

The reading changed my view of UCSD. Before reading Kong's analysis, I was ignorant of the possible challenges Asian American students might have faced. As a Chinese American growing up in San Francisco, I have never personally experienced a challenge of a minority population because I have always been part of the majority, just like how minorities are the majority here at UCSD. However, Kong's analysis allowed me to see how Asian Americans are de-minoritized: we are everywhere on campus, but our status as minorities is denied. Because of the negative stereotype that Asians are good at everything and have a greater chance to succeed compared to other minority groups, a racial wedge is created in which those students who are a part of the other minority groups feel devalued. They are working hard, but it is difficult to get to the same place without the same support and background. Kong challenges how Asian students are numerically shown as the majority and that the UC is a perfectly equal system where there is no racism, thus silencing the criticism of other minority groups. Her analysis opened up a new perspective, where I now see this complicated argument on racial politics at UCSD, making it to be a vulnerable campus climate that affects our learning environment.

Works Cited

Kong, Angela. *Re-Examining Diversity Policy at UCSD*. Diss. UCSD, 2014. Ch 4. Print.