

Reading Response 5



So far, for me the experience of UCSD racial climate has been quite interesting. Even though I made a lot of friends, who are of all races and nationalities, during my first quarter here, I feel that it is only because I decided to live on campus and in the dorms. Otherwise, I believe I would make friends with mostly two types of people: Asian and Russians, because I'm myself Vietnamese born in Russia. That's why I chose this photo. I feel that the campus is not that diverse, even though the university tries to emphasize the diversity so much. There are just as many types of people here as the number of people on the photo.

The reading didn't change this view of the university, but it changed something else. I would never think that Asians here are model minorities and excluded from diversity programs. It's obvious why I thought like this: Asians are most of the population of campus

and they being minorities is a strange phenomenon, but very understandable after reading the text by Kong. The amount of Asians and the stereotypes about them combined make the university think that all of Asian people are completely fine here and are very strong students that don't need help like other people of color that are underrepresented in UCSD.

Actually, being an international student from Russia I haven't thought a lot about the campus' racial climate issues. Awareness about diversity is not that popular in Russia, because the population there is not that diverse as in United States, which makes me not aware of the climate here as long as it doesn't affect my experience here and academic success, which it haven't yet. Being one of the few Asians in my school I had experienced a lot of racist jokes and attitude towards me, making myself only more stable to racism. So until I experience even worse attitude against me, I won't really acknowledge it.

However, since I came here my demands are growing. In Russia I don't really think of equality between me and Russian people, but here seeing all the studies about it and people demanding equality, I, myself, want more response from the university and society. Kong's analysis makes me understand how unfair the racial climate can be.