

Psychology of Diversity: Short Paper Snippets  
Fall 2004

- They told me how they often were victims of discrimination or prejudices. This common ground, acceptance, and understanding allowed me to open up and embrace my sexual preference.....
- At first a lot of students didn't like me because I didn't sit at the "Black table." ... I remember one incident where I overheard this White boy telling his friends that he hated black girls that try to act white.
- They don't know what they are missing out on, since they haven't experienced anything like we have in our culture.
- On one side, I was taught to believe that only white people were superior and there was no other race above that race. Most people would think that I would have been taught that statement by white people, but actually my own race of people taught me that statement.
- This also made me realize how even though we as people may believe in different things, in the end we still tend to treat people who are of a lower class as the minority, rather than the human-beings they are.
- It was hard to hear my father's words of hatred while I knew how great of a guy O'Jay (my boyfriend) actually was.
- I noticed that my culture is accepting, but standoffish because we do not want to get into a situation that makes us uncomfortable.
- My boyfriend Timmy and his family are Pilipino, granted I am Asian, but I am adopted and parents are Caucasian. So, going into a real Asian home was a different experience for me.
- My first impression of Raquel was that her English was terrible as well as her grammar. But, as I got to know her, I learned of her struggles as a child in Cuba and the prejudices against her now that she is living in Miami.
- It was never as obvious to me as it was then, that the opportunities I was afforded just by my parents being able to rear me where they did, presented me many more safeties and opportunities.
- I realized when I went home from school a lot of my friends had not made the changes I felt I had made.
- ...I am not a prejudice person; I just think that in my life, I have sometimes been treated with a disadvantage because I am a white girl who comes from the suburbs of Northern Virginia.
- My extended family didn't understand why I would spend so much money to come to college when I could just start working and gain experience. In England, experience is much more valuable than education.
- The first day at Beans and Rice, I arrived with another service worker to find that most of the older children were African American. I was unsure about how they would perceive me, if they would like me at all, and if they would even talk to me.
- She taught me that even though she and her family looked like Saudis or Pakistanis or Afghanis (just as Americans look like English, Australian, or Canadian people) does not mean they are all alike.
- I thought of beautiful beaches and that wonderful accent. I thought every single male was a blue eyed blonde haired surfer living on the beach. I thought of the kangaroos hopping down the streets and koalas climbing up every tree. Of course this is not even how Australia is, but I did not know any better.
- I am in no way racist or prejudice. It is just that I never had a chance to really be close to people of another ethnicity.
- She (a young Black second grader) looked me (a young White second grader) right in the eyes and said, "Look at you... you wouldn't fit in."
- It does not seem logical to have a sixteen year old commit themselves to a faith, when they themselves are not positively sure what they believe in.
- I originally believed that people in Australia would be very similar to Americans. This is true to an extent, but I failed to realize the amount of diversity among people that can be found in the country.
- My friends and I were shocked because none of us had ever met anyone that was from Ethiopia. We all had pictures in our heads of these really dark skinned, malnourished, and not very attractive people in our heads.
- I was not nervous because of the color of her skin. I was nervous because I wanted us to get along and to be able to live in the same room for the semester...
- So many people have very intense biases which are very hard to change since they have grown up with those beliefs. Maybe it would be different if we all looked the same and all came from the same place and all acted the same way, but that would not be being human.
- My kind encounters with Patience while I was so young had a tremendous impact on my view of Black people in general. Patience seemed like a much better person at heart than the majority of my White friends.
- I realized that we are all people, and we all wanted basically the same things, but that culture trains us differently in ways to achieve those things.
- I thought that everyone was open and had all different types of friends and family members, and had that diversity in their life as I did. It was like I was blinded by my own diversity enhanced life.
- I am stridently anti-racist and believe that many of the "isms" that exist in today's world are based upon lack of

knowledge about those that we are racist or sexist or “whateverist” against.

-Thinking back on the situation, I wish I had made an effort to talk to him in the beginning, instead of just writing him off as “scary” and staying as far away as I could get.

-A predominant part of my life I was raised with an African American heritage with little knowledge that I had another heritage I had not experienced.

-I am sad that college has been the first major cultural event in my life. Even though I choose to live at home and commute to school because of my fear of others and change, I still feel that I have been able to meet and learn about people who are different from me.

-I do not, by any means, think that my family is racist, but I think that they have very closed minds about some groups of people.

-I was told by many that I would go to hell unless I put my faith in Christ. This made me upset because at synagogue our Rabbi’s never took the time to speak negatively about any other religions.

-He (my dad) told me I was never to date anyone with darker skin than my own. And, he said if I ever did, his rifle would *beat* my date to our porch.

-I had believed that white people did not add seasoning to their foods, always backed their chicken, and added mayonnaise to everything they ate.

-However, once I had gotten to know this girl at work a little better, my whole view of this touchy subject has changed. I noticed my opinion of the Black race switched from not really knowing what I thought about them, except for the fact that they were just people like me and you, to disliking them to a certain extent.

-The shock came when I realized that people in these countries do really wear such “dress up” outfits while just making their way around town.

-So as far as them shaping my views, nope, if anything I laid the foundations of all their interaction with Black people.

-Its almost like the college environment is the perfect place to interact with and learn about different cultures.

-I did not realize that someone from another country could be so much like me when it came to interests in shopping, television shows, or playing sport.

-I feel that being labeled a racist is worse than any curse word and would fear being named that.

-Seeing how ridiculous some people can act has made me almost feel embarrassed at times to be White.

-The fact that he is half White and half Black and never bothered me because I think I was too young to notice such trivial things when we met.

-Why does America not value education as much as some other cultures do, such as Germany?

-Blacks in my area were extremely racist to all the whites, because they thought we were the biggest asses for what happened post civil-war.

-Along with my heightened sensitivity to individual differences comes from the disappointment of seeing even my own peers act in ignorance and prejudice towards those I love.

-When I came to college, I got the chance to meet many different people and learn who they were and what they were about.

- In order to understand their full motives for these attacks you have to understand other attributes of their culture, like their religion, economy, social norms, etc.

- I always knew racism existed, but 9-11-01 opened my eyes and let me see how people get treated unfairly everyday, without the whole world knowing it.

-I assimilate her ethnic group to be enveloped with scrumptious cuisine...