

Student #1

Discrimination is a common issue in all realms of life, but rarely spoken on or observed clearly.

To actually do an activity displaying signs of discrimination was truly eye opening and good to

get an understanding about how it truly looks or even feels to hold bias against a certain group in

particular, and favor another. My group was told to try and join group one, and reject members

of group four. Me being in group two, I followed orders and went to join group one where they

happily accepted me. One thing I found interesting in particular is that everyone else in my group

but me went over to join group five, in which that point the only group that remained was all of

group one, myself and group five. This experiment in my opinion was all about perspectives,

group one and I felt secure and fine with our formation, and sought to reject anyone who

approached us. When group five came toward us we rejected them, and through all the rejection I

felt no sense of sympathy or compassion toward the other groups. I followed orders and almost

as if I was wrong doing the right thing. Interesting the contradictions that reflected through this

activity, but it is a showing of how people really are in this world. Some see nothing wrong with

the way they treat others even if it is negative, but it's how they are and how they feel. Truly this

was an eye opener in realizing that not only were we doing the wrong thing by not accepting

them, we were ignorant to the fact of what they were doing, and why they were doing it, we

negated it, turned our backs to it. This transcended a deeper message than I imagined before

examining the activity from a broader viewpoint. I'm glad I was able to experience this activity,

it opened my mind to a lot of things most people are ignorant to or do not bother to change.

There's so much discrimination and hatred toward others for various reasons, and none of them

are realistic or justified. The time must come soon where the world can work together to solve all

of the problems, not segregate and do the opposite. World peace is a goal of mine, and I want to work on making this world better fit for the next generations as well as mine.

Student #2

Diversity and discrimination have always been two topics that have been discussed hand in hand. Diversity, to me, is the collection of many cultures, races, genders and religions all together in a particular system. Discrimination, to me, is the act of being overly prejudice to any of the cultures, races or religions that you encounter during your daily life. No matter what, in today's ever growing social environment, we will encounter a sizeable amount of diversity and whenever there is a diverse system of people, we will also encounter discrimination.

Diversity is a very complex idea in which the connotation is more than often a positive one. We are taught that diversity is a positive ideal that will help each other learn about the different people in our daily lives and give us a better understanding of the vastly different people that are in it. We are able to see how diverse our population is by physically seeing that our country is made of many different races. If we were to ask a couple questions we would be able to see how even MORE diverse our society is with our different religions and our different cultures.

Unfortunately, when it comes to our massively diverse society, we encounter a sizeable amount of discrimination towards anyone that has a different skin tone than us, or religious viewpoint and even discrimination towards our personal genders. Discrimination is the sectioning off of and creating a sort of tier system based off of the physical attributes or religious views. I have always been taught ever since I was very young that no matter how different someone may look or what religion they practice or even the way that they may act, that I should

treat everyone with respect. The fact that somebody could lose a job opportunity or be harassed just due to the fact that they are different is upsetting to say the least. With our society becoming more diverse by the day, being a bit more accepting of people should be a top priority.

Student #3

The diversity/ discrimination activity made me see how certain people get treated on a daily basis. It is not fair to judge a person because of their skin color, body shape, weight, etc. Unfortunately, everyone is guilty of it because we are human, and it is a natural thing to do. If someone acts “different” or not “normal” it is our human instinct to judge them, even if we do not say it out loud, we are thinking it. This becomes a huge problem when people start to bully someone because of these things. There are so many stories out now about how someone got bullied so much, that they felt like they had to take their own life. That is unforgiveable, no one should have to live life like that, to where they feel like they should not live anymore because nothing seems to be getting better. In our group activity there were people that got rejected because of a certain number they were, which also represents ”clicks”. There will be let’s say a “popular kid table” and someone from a different click tries to sit with them or talk to them, more than likely, the “popular” kids are going to make fun of them or tell that person that they cannot sit with them. It is a sad thing, but unfortunately, that is the way things work in society.

Being rejected is never fun, it never feels good, and it never gets better. Words can hurt more than someone punching another in the face. This is because words stick, you can re play them in your head over and over again. Whereas a punch, the hurt is only temporary. This is why many kids commit suicide, because they actually start believing the words that people say to them are true. Also, no one likes getting picked on or beat up every day either. If only people

could see just how much their actions can affect someone before there is no way to fix it. The people that do the bullying and rejecting often have issues of their own, and pick on others to make themselves feel better inside. They usually do not notice how mean they were until something drastic like suicide happens. This could either make a weak person stronger, or go the total opposite way and make them beat themselves down until they cannot take it anymore. If only everyone could see how easy it is to hurt someone and how wrong it is to do so. Having intentions like that is wrong and cruel for absolutely no reason at all.

Student #4

Doing this project with my group has made diversity and discrimination a little more clear to me. When we first started out I thought we weren't really that diverse of a group. We all grew up with different backgrounds but I didn't know that that was what diversity really meant. I was interesting to know that and to get a clear view on what diversity was, it is the difference in what varies from person to person, or at least that's what I believe in now. Knowing this now helps me better understand people and their backgrounds.

Discrimination, before this assignment, to me was basically defiling someone simply because they were different than a certain group that you praise or are involved with on the daily basis. Actually I was right but it has much more to do with it than that. People get discriminated against or for because of what they identify as, affiliate themselves with or simply by doing their own thing in life that that person wants to do.

In a group setting it is always fun accepting new people into the group, mainly because I can relate to a lot of people and accepting them into a group that I am in is easy and fun because you never know who you're going to meet.

A hindrance about doing a group project or being in a group is that sometimes the group doesn't keep in contact with each other. Communication tends to lack in some group settings, so this can keep the effectiveness of what the group is working on at a minimum or just not be at full effectiveness.

The one thing that I understand is discrimination. My life was based on being discriminated against up until I decided to join a sports team in high school my freshman year. After that, I was always on the prowl for other people that were just like me so I can help them out if they just so needed it. I am more humble because of it and I am genuinely a nice person but I do have my limits just like every other human being in the world.

Student #5

Diversity is the state of being diverse, variety. Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things. I think the group activity was about both diversity and discrimination. We all started in 4 groups (which made us diverse) then, when groups started to merge and tried to join other groups they were discriminated against. For example, I was a part of Group 1 and my group members had specific people they picked out from each of the other groups that they wanted to join our group. We were discriminatory on the people that could join our group. I started in Group 1, and ended in Group 1, none of the group members left Group 1. I wasn't accepted into any other group because I didn't want to leave my group. I also wasn't rejected from any groups. Actually, my group members and I were the rejecters and looking back it made me (and some of my group members) feel sad and a little like we were bullies. Once again, I never had a new group because I never left my original group. Group 1 was the best group, why would I leave? Our whole plan was to stick together and only let the people we chose in the beginning into our clique. We actually managed to keep one

member from Group 3 in our group the whole time, probably because we trapped him in the corner, but he didn't try to leave either. It was fun to accept people. When we rejected mostly everyone from joining our group, they all went to create Group 5 then they tried to get Group 1 to join them. But, we stuck to our plan to stick together and we refused to join. We also decided to refuse to let anyone in our group, even those we hand picked out. This made our group tighter than it ever was and it made us stronger as a team. Overall, I think the activity was a great idea to help us learn the differences and similarities between diversity and discrimination and Group 1 will always be the best group, you told us so.

Student #6

Diversity is awesome. The world would be so boring without it. There would be no problems to fix, cultures to learn, or uniqueness to celebrate. Everyone would be like preprogrammed robots with no free will or emotions. Diversity is natural and it is needed to make the world as interesting as it is. So why does discrimination happen so often? I think a lot of it has to do with pride, jealousy, and comparison. So often things like beauty or fame are held to a certain standard and many compare themselves to that standard and become depressed because that standard isn't, or can't be met. Therefore since they can't reach one standard, they will compensate and become prideful in others. This is when people begin to discriminate against others to make themselves feel better. Reasons for discrimination can include age, gender, race, height, weight, etc. The activity we did in class was interesting because it is easily applied to real life. I was discriminated against by different groups and I just got so confused so I went and picked up one of the red papers. When enough people came to the red group and we tried to 'evangelize' to the last remaining group, they wouldn't have anything to do with us no matter

how hard we tried. That's exactly how society is today. Discrimination can be so upsetting because sometimes people don't even know why they are being discriminated against. It's such a touchy subject because some people react to criticism or recognition of differences as discrimination and I believe that is most often the case in America today. Too many people today have a sense of entitlement about them that any sort of negative comment no matter how small is blown out of proportion. Sometimes those negative comments are nothing but the truth and the other person refuses to let go of their pride and see it. I think there used to be a good balance where people would choose their battles verses manning up and letting something go. In today's society I feel that balance has been lost and people are taking advantage of anything they can to strengthen their pride.

Student #7

In today's world, diversity and discrimination are still a couple of the most controversial topics being talked about on an everyday basis. Even though these are two different topics they still go right along with each other. Diversity is having a variety of things while discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly because of their race, age, gender, etc. If someone chooses to discriminate towards people then they probably don't live a very diverse life. If you aren't welcoming of everyone then you are going to continue to accept the same types of people and have little to no diversity in your life.

For the activity in class I was in group 1. We were told that we were the best group and to not leave to go to any other group. We were only allowed to invite a certain number of members from each group into ours, and one group wasn't allowed to join at all. At first a few members that we picked decided to join our group, but others rejected the offer because we wouldn't let

their other group members in. People were taking it defensive that were discriminating towards certain people that wanted to be in our group also. I didn't really enjoy this activity because I'm the type of person that invites anyone into my group without questioning how they act or what they look like.

Throughout the beginning of the activity I was very confused on why people were trying to leave our group after we had already accepted them in. I then began to think that they were just doing it so they were loyal to their original group. Towards the end of the activity, most of the people from the other groups went and joined group 5, but I remained loyal to my group and stayed. No one from our original group 4 left to go to any other ones. Everyone that went to group 5 tried to get our group to join, but we didn't budge.

I think this activity did a great job displaying diversity and discrimination. It helped me get a little glimpse of what people feel like when they are discriminated against. I feel that everyone should live a diverse life and allow anyone to be a part of their lives no matter what their skin color or age is. This is important because being diverse will allow you to interact with all different types of people and not just one.