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Sophomore Honors English

10 October 2009

Diversity in our Local Community helps us to Become a Vital Part of the World
Community

Children are immune to racism and discrimination. Children who are African-American, Caucasian, Hispanic, Asian, Mulatto, or Japanese play and manifest in each others ingenuity and personality. Each one of these children is like a colorful puzzle piece, and when they mesh a beautiful picture of diversity is formed. However as the children grow older just as puzzles they don't hold tightly, and begin to fall apart.

As an African-American in grade school I had two best friends: one Hispanic and one Caucasian. We were always together laughing and playing. Our differentiating races didn't matter. We thought that our friendship bond could never be broken, but unfortunately we were wrong. By our junior high and high school years the three of us hardly talked. We began to fall apart and our puzzle was ruined. It wasn't just us that began to split; it seemed that the entire school did it in unison. Now as I walk around high school it seems as though there is segregation. The only difference from America's segregation and the schools is that this time it isn't a written law, but it is human nature.

Comparatively to the country we live in there is a puzzle of diversity. Every state and every community helps build or dismantle our world wide puzzle. The society an individual lives in, and their cultural background does influence their opinion and views.

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For example: during the presidential election many were excited for change. No matter whom ever won, history would be made. When every vote was accounted for Barack Obama was announced President of the United States. As a result stories on the headline and community news showed people expressing their personal views on the situation. Communities that had a lot of diversity, were more likely to accept an African-American president. Unfortunately, not every community has diversity, and not every community will accept change.

After my own experience and watching the news; I realized how much every adult misses out on life. Children are blind when it comes to race and sexual orientation; they only care about a person's personality. If every individual was like a child diversity would be more widely accepted. Unfortunately adults and teens witness cultural differences, and become eclipsed with racism and discrimination. Sometimes the ignorance of a child is beneficial to society, and the world wide diverse puzzle.

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Diversity

Made in China. Made in the Philippines. Made in the U.S.A. We see these statements mass printed on every object from clothing to instruments to toilet paper. Great, enormous machines make these material goods, over and over again; an exact copy of the previous, and so on. Nowadays, we see an echo of these mass produced products and unoriginal copies. They blend in with each other, unidentifiable. Each one is made to look exactly like the next. People have a tendency to have similar mannerisms, especially high school students. On an everyday basis I see people trying to fit in, pretending. I see people segregating those unlike themselves, and I see people who don't think for themselves.

One pretending to be someone he or she isn't and copying others in their likes, dislikes, styles, etc., is quite commonplace in modern society. For example, whatever fashion style is popular is normally adopted by a majority no matter if they truly like it or not. Then sometimes they take a liking to the fad, however subconsciously, for its popularity. Certain brands, such as Hollister, are worn by such a large crowd you'd think that they have no diversity what-so-ever. When someone has an original idea, it is bound to be that someone will copy it and adopt it as their own. This may be from a reluctance of stepping out and identifying oneself as a unique individual for fear of being cast down, and it may also be from lack of originality altogether.

Segregation is another large problem. People tend to be afraid of diversity, however indirectly such fear may be, and avoid it. Mixing with people of different races, ideas, hobbies, and looks is rarely seen in an average high school. From this segregation and lack of diversity, teenagers and children grow

up not understanding the different varieties of people, and are wary, at best, of those that they don't know about or haven't interacted with. People out of the range of "the usual". Racial slurs, slang terms, and stereotyping are some reactions to segregation, as people try to lower the status of those unlike themselves, and glorify their own self or group to others, attempting to establish superiority.

Then, most prominently, there is the inability to think for oneself. As more and more generations are born, they are very likely to take on the viewpoints of their parents or family members, especially those on religion. This could very possibly be because they don't know the answers to certain questions; therefore, they take what they are passed down through religion. Another reason for this commonly witnessed is indoctrination of young children. Without making decisions based off their own opinions and experiences in life, children take on the religious label of their parents. Parents want their offspring to believe in what they themselves believe in, and when they don't, children are often punished, or above a certain age, shunned. Teenagers will also defend a common, popular standpoint on a subject even if the latter isn't what they truly believe is right. People rarely stand up for what is right due to fear of social reprimand or judgment from peers.

So all in all, people are afraid to stand out. They are afraid of being the diverse, out of the norm person in a group, so therefore they try hard to "fit in", camouflage themselves into groups of similarity; segregate, and don't think for themselves. Eventually, however, people will mix more and more, as we see happening today. Misconceptions will be lost, and hostility removed. Machines that previously manufactured these multiples will hopefully be useless. Handmade with love is the best manufacturing of all; each object unique.

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27 September 2009

How Diversity in our Local Community Helps us to Become a Vital Part of the World
Community

“If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity,” ~John F. Kennedy. Diversity is an increasingly important factor in life as organizations world-wide become more diverse in gender, race, ethnicity, age, national origin, and other characteristics of the members. Because of the increasing globalization of business, employees from different cultures and life-styles work together in cross-national associations.

In our local community, diversity plays a factor, for people seem to think of diversity simply as a matter of age, color, gender and educational background. When, in fact, diversity is so much more. It means being able to understand the unique qualities and differences of each person as an individual. These can be along the lines of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies; however, it's the safe and positive way you explore upon these.

I notice diversity at my school and at local businesses that I visit. At school the Hispanics usually befriend the Hispanics, and Caucasians segregate to other Caucasians. No one typically has a grudge on the other race, but it seems to be the way things function. Schools with a diverse population can develop an understanding of the

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perspectives of children from different backgrounds and learn to function in the environment. As public schools become more diverse, demands increase to find the most effective ways to help all students succeed academically as well as learn to get along with each other.

I myself don't see diversity as an issue in my life. I see people as individuals, not race, and I believe we can all live together. We all have the knowledge, experience, and skills to communicate easily and well in the presence of our differences. If we all could understand each other and move beyond a simple tolerance, then we'd see the rich dimensions of diversity within each individual. As a whole, we ought to enjoy watching the celebrations of other customs and holidays instead of spitting upon them. There is so much more to life than worrying about the differences.

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How Diversity in our Local Community Helps us to Become a Vital Part of the
World Community.

Diversity. It's in our schools. It's at our work. It's in the churches where we pray and at the parks where we play. Diversity is all over the world. But do we really know what it is and what makes it so important?

Diversity, for starters, is a wide range of cultures that represent differences such as different values or customs. It's what makes us all different from every other person in the world. Now, one step we need to take is that we need to respect and tolerate the differences of others. It's like this. We all share this beautiful planet that we call Earth. To make Earth a happy and peaceful planet, we need to respect each other and work together. This respect all starts in our own communities.

By respecting and tolerating different people in our own diverse communities, we make the world an overall better place. It's also very important to have respect for other cultures, so the people in this world can set an example for the children of their community who will become the future leaders of the world. Children often become who their parents are. So if a child grew up in a community where diversity was frowned upon, the child will probably grow up believing that diversity is a bad thing. I, personally, am growing up in a community where differences are respected. This has definitely affected my life in a positive way. I have a lot of friends who have different religions,

races and customs than I do and I respect that. It's how I was raised. Do you see through these two examples how diversity and the tolerance of it is important in our community?

Now, as a last point, diversity is a big part of our world community. Let's take a look back in history to a time when diversity wasn't respected and see how important it really is. Not very long ago we had a problem with segregation in our very own country. People were not respecting one another's race. Other things like the Holocaust are examples of how important it is to respect diversity. The segregation in the U.S. and the Holocaust are ways that this world didn't respect diversity. Both of these occurrences led to horrible events and are now regretted. So, we need to prevent these events from happening by respecting the differences around the world. Not doing so can lead to disastrous consequences.

In conclusion, diversity and the respect of it is very important in our local community and also in our world community. A diverse world is a great one!