

Should college admission office be color-blind?

Higher education is often considered a privilege to many people. It paves the way for a brighter future, enables access to professional skills and introduces a vast personal network. Therefore, many strives to land a college opportunity, especially the blacks and the Hispanics. That is why the most prominent view when one first walks through the gate of college is the racially diverse community that lies within the school. Every ethnicity is present on campus. Such diversity would never have happened had it not been for affirmative action - a noble effort to jump-start racial integration and foster equal opportunity (Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr., The painful truth about affirmative action 2021). Affirmative action makes sure every skin color can further their education. That is why I believe college applications should not be color blind.

Contrary to popular belief, American college students' ethnic group is not very sundry. The US is one of few countries in the world that possesses the most prestigious universities, such as Yale, Harvard, etc. Even its best 50 universities provide the highest level of education. It is truly a blessing for one to be accepted into such distinguished institutions. However, most students in those universities primarily consist of white-borne students. In the case of Texas Christian University (TCU), a whopping portion of 73% of the student population is white. Contradictorily, Asian students only make up 3% (CollegeSimply, *Texas Christian university diversity & Student Demographics*). Harvard University, ranked second in National Universities by US News, consists mainly of white students, precisely 37.1% (Harvard diversity Statistics: An in-depth look 2020).

Considering the history of America, we should dive deep into the 17th and 18th centuries, when black people were forced into slavery, and stripped of their homes. An incredibly demanding market for slaves was established in Africa to supply the rich and powerful whites with young, strong black people. Black history contains countless heartbroken and outraging stories (History.com Editors, *Slavery in America* 2009). But even after the eradication of that unethical policy, recognition of African Americans' rights was far from existence. Even then, they suffered from racism until modern times, most of which is

due to the government's aloof attitude towards discrimination. In the 20th century, the urban settings were very different from nowadays. Many black people are located on the south side of the city, which is the most hazardous to accommodate. Many of them did not even have a home to go to; thus, black people face homelessness and unemployment more than any other group (Racial inequalities in homelessness, by the numbers 2020). With such disadvantages, it is challenging for an African American to enroll in higher education. In fact, the number of black and Hispanic students was one of the lowest in any college admissions, and it remained until today, i.e., 37% for black students and 36% for Hispanic students.

Affirmative action is of utility to rectify the Blacks' miserable saga and to appreciate their historical contributions. From a biological point of view, humans do not differ from each other in terms of intelligence. As a matter of fact, intelligence is determined by a combination of upbringing and genetics (Is intelligence determined by GENETICS?: MedlinePlus Genetics 2020). Some might argue that Caucasians are the most intelligent comparing to other ethnic groups since various cardinal inventions of Physics and Mathematics or any other fields came from Caucasians-descendants. However, the cradle of humanity lies in Africa, which means that the people that kicked off civilization were black. Every scientific accomplishment would not have occurred had it not been for the Egyptians. With such a terrific contribution since the primitive of humankind, is it not funny to see how black people are treated nowadays? The fundamental rights of a man stated in the Declaration include "all men are born and remain free and equal in rights" (Declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen). It is unfair to witness how black people were treated throughout time and how the responsible reconciled their mistakes wrongly. That is why affirmative action is needed. Not as a public relations tactic, but reconciliation to the unjust past operations.

"Affirmative action in university admissions started in the late 1960s as a noble effort to jump-start racial integration and foster equal opportunity" (Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr., The painful truth about affirmative action 2021). Because of this policy, many African American, as well as Hispanic students, had the opportunity to attend college. However, affirmative action did indeed create controversy and problems. One of the most exemplary consequences that affected the minorities was the mismatch

situation - the result of students' academic competence not being able to keep up with the competitive environment that the university provides (Richard Sander, *The painful truth about affirmative action* 2021). But if we were to compare between what it had brought and what it had caused, the difference was crucially noticeable. To give a person a chance to go to college means that there is always a possibility that they would want to drop out abruptly. Alas, it is one's decision to determine what is best for them. But when we look at the statistics and how they had changed social norms, we would appreciate affirmative action. According to William Bowen and Derek Bok's classic book "*The Shape of the River*", black students who benefited from affirmative action do better in the long run than their peers, who did not gain from affirmative action. Those who have benefited from affirmative action have a higher tendency to graduate and earn a higher income. Therefore, affirmative action catalyzes its targets' potency in communal activities. To quote verbatim, "affirmative action acts as an engine for social mobility for its direct beneficiaries. This in turn leads to a more diverse leadership, which you can see steadily growing in the United States." (The case for affirmative action). We have established that how diversity-uplifting policies benefited minority students. How about its impact on the majority group? Based on the study carried out through decades of research, white students and others from a higher socioeconomic background have a more positive attitude towards racial minorities (The case for affirmative action). So affirmative action had acted in both ways: as a beneficiary and an educator.

Despite having given equality to black and Hispanic students, affirmative action cannot ensure each student's academic performance and control the number of graduates. As mentioned before, affirmative action created a mismatch between the students and the institution's competitive environment. Because of this discord, many Black and Hispanic students find themselves dropping out of college a lot more than before affirmative action came into existence. Statistics show that about half of black college students rank in the bottom 20 percent of their classes (and the bottom 10 percent in law school). Moreover, Blacks who start college interested in pursuing a doctorate and an academic career are twice as likely to be derailed from this path if they attend a school where they are mismatched (Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor Jr., *The painful truth about affirmative action* 2021). Richard Sander and Stuart Taylor

Jr. also stated in their article that the number of Black and Hispanic graduates remained the same post-Prop 209 (Prop 209 is the proposition introduced by the state of California to eliminate affirmative action from its universities' admission). This means that affirmative action is not as effective as the intended purpose. However, we should also keep in mind that success in college does not catalyze real-world success. In fact, many of the most successful businesspeople today do not possess a college degree, namely Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, yet we are all using those billionaires' creations to keep in touch with each other.

Despite its honorable purpose, affirmative action underwent many protests. One of the exemplary instances is Reverse Racism, a myth created by the majority group, i.e Caucasian students and parents. It raised the following agenda: discrimination against white applicants (Vann R. Newkirk II, *How the myth of reverse racism drives the affirmative-action debate*). In truth, what "reverse racism" actually represents is the phenomenon where "individual blacks and members of other minority groups began to be given benefits at the expense of whites who, apart from race, would have had a superior claim to enjoy them." (Vann R. Newkirk II, *How the myth of reverse racism drives the affirmative-action debate*). Because of this unscientific myth, affirmative action has been mistaken from a noble effort into a toxic affair by those who hold the power, like the press, etc. Now, Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians find it even harder to earn their chances for higher education.

What will America become if its college application process is genuinely color-blind? Based on the difference between the history of the majority and minority groups, it is safe to conclude that the Whites have a significant advantage over the Blacks and Hispanics. Caucasian descendants would populate the university's campus, leaving minority students for scrap, despite being intellectually equal. In fact, the act of eliminating affirmative action brings catastrophe to minority groups, while only mildly affects the white students. Without affirmative action, African American candidates' admission rate would decline by nearly two-thirds, from 33.7 percent to 12.2 percent, while the admission rate for Hispanic students would be halved, from 26.8 percent to 12.9 percent. While these declines are dramatic,

the authors note that the long-term impact is not promising (Lauren Robinson-Brown, *Ending affirmative action would devastate most minority college enrollment*).

In conclusion, affirmative action works. It creates balance and equality. It creates the chance for the lesser group, for those who had had to endure a history of misery and suffocations, to seize their moment and rise up just like their counterpart. I believe it is unfair and unethical for college applications to not consider race into their qualifications. That is why college applications should not be color-blind.

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- Lauren Robinson-Brown, *Ending affirmative action would devastate most minority college enrollment*

SELF-EVALUATION

After writing this essay, I feel like my writing have improved a lot. I have taken into account my mistakes in the summary response essay, so I wrote this one a lot more confident. I also had a deep consideration to your advice and had adjusted my essay to your recommendation. I exploited other resources as evidence to my viewpoints. Overall, I think I did a better job on **this essay.**