**Alison:** Hello everyone. Thank you all for meeting me here to discuss the current situation in southeast Urbana and, perhaps, find some kind of understanding between our communities. And thank you especially Ms Eng, high school principal, for accepting the invitation.

**Ornélia:** Hello, thank you for inviting us.

**Alison:** As you all know, ever since the incident between Ms. Williams and Mr. Park, tensions have been rising in the city and the AACA, also known as the African-American Communities for Action, has organized a boycott of the grocery store. But those issues run much deeper and, as the deacon of an African-American church, I’ve met some people who want to believe change is possible and are open to discussion. This is why I am joined by Sarrah, the AACA representative, who will speak for the African-American community.

**Sarrah:** Hello everyone, thank you Deacon for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to speak and defend my community.

**Ornélia :** I asked Anis and Ana to join us. Anis is KMAU representative who will defend the Korean American community’s interests

**Anis :** Hello everyone !

**Ornélia** : And Ana is specialized in social relations and cultural development. Ana, if you'd like to introduce yourself.

**Ana :** *Se présenter , je propose de donner la parole à un des deux représentants, bah commençons par exemple par la représentante AACA (Sarrah)*

*Thank you Ornélia, so I work in the*  town hall’s *and my job consists of managing social relations and cultural development.*

*This moment can let each other develop some opinions to find solutions.*

*The different points of views can resolve the problem. We should listen to everybody for that.*

*So,we can start with the representante of AACA, SARRAH.*

**Arguments 1&2 : Accusation de racisme + différences culturelles et linguistiques**

**Sarrah :** First of all, thank you Ana for giving me the floor. Well, as you all know, we've lived through a very painful history linked to racism and unfortunately the Koreans have aggravated this feeling through their attitudes towards us. Koreans never smile at us, even their behavior is rude and weird : they are unfriendly, disrespectful and hostile. Deacon, you agree with me, don't you?

**Alison** : Yes, it almost feels as if the Korean community has prejudices against African Americans and expects them to shoplift.

**Anis** : I understand your point of view, but I don't agree that we are racist.

We are also victims of racism.

You know that Korean shop owners have difficulty communicating in English and understanding American culture. This can lead to misunderstandings with their African American customers. Some Korean traditions, like not smiling at strangers, can be misinterpreted.

Also, there are strict cultural rules against women touching the hand of a male stranger, which explains why customer’s change is left on the counter.

**Sarrah :** Okay,  now I understand that the point of putting money on the table is linked to culture, but you have to be nicer to your customers: because that's respect. So, Koreans need to make a bit of an effort!

**Ornélia :**

Well, the problem is a lack of communication between the two communities.

I think that to resolve this, we could organize discussion forums, with representatives of each community  where conflict resolution mediators would manage the debates .

Individuals could express their concerns, share their experiences, and listen to the point of view of each other.

**Sarrah :** Yes, I agree that a respectful discussion can be a good idea. It can be an opportunity to make ourselves (Afroamericans and Koreans) heard.

**Alison:** I agree, communication is key to better understand our cultural differences. That’s why we should also offer English classes to the Korean community to help them.

**Ana** : *Yes , very good idea , I can offer you an event room*

In my opinion, it’s interesting to develop some activities and mix these 2 communities.

The target is to create cohesion with each other and avoid problems or everything who can switch on the fire.

To coexist, we must create, for instance, a sports team.

We can find any solution like that.

**Ornélia** :

Having worked in different establishments, I think the sports team is a good idea. It would help develop team spirit and strengthen the bond between the 2 communities, but the school is not diverse enough to allow this mix.,

Maybe it would be a good idea to organize an inter-school event where the 2 communities would collaborate.

For example, the organization of a cultural exhibition in high school between these communities: the African-Americans would organize the Korean-American exhibition, and vice-versa.

**Ana** :We agree with this solution, we'll see later.

Let's move on,I'm listening.

**Arguments 3 & 4 . Inégalités dans le secteur financier**

**Sarrah :** So, we also face problems and obstacles regarding  access to financing and financial services. And I think it's also linked to discrimination. It's unfortunate, but it's true.

**Alison:** Yes, our community fails to understand how you arrived in the United States with no resources, yet managed to start your own businesses when African Americans can’t even get financing themselves. We really wonder where your funding comes from.

**Anis :** Let me clarify the situation. We have set up our financing system called “geh”. In this system, each member of our association contributes financially to a common fund. This allows them to start up a business. We developed this system because the banks were refusing to give us loans to launch our businesses.

I thought about sharing our business knowledge for African Americans who want to start their own businesses. It could help them to improve their skills and abilities. What do you think, Ms. Eng?

**Ornélia :** That’s a fantastic initiative, especially considering the challenges many African Americans face when trying to access traditional financing options.

Adding financial education and entrepreneurship training programs tailored to the specific needs of underserved communities could make a difference. It's not just about providing the funds to start a business, but also about empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to sustain and grow their ventures successfully . By offering these programs, we're fostering economic independence and self-sufficiency, which are crucial for long-term community development.

**Ana :** For example, the estate finances some groups or causes to fight against discrimination, racism or social problems.If we can speak together and create a good project with investment I want to say : why not ? Tower hall  will be able to help the african community finance their projects thanks to the bank's state-sponsored social program.

I want to propose a subvention to permit at each community to travel and exchange the destination. For this situation, korean people can travel and discover african countries and african people can discover Korea.

This project can teach people the different values and knowledge to respect each other.

Every month, we will ask a report to see what are the fundamental lessons people learn during this experience.

**Sarrah :** I agree that the proposed solutions are good ones. But the problem is that the Koreans never hire us. They refuse to integrate us into the community.

**Ornélia:**Yes, that’s true. Korean merchants have to consider hiring members of the African-American community.

By encouraging employment opportunities across our communities we can have a better understanding of each other and make stronger connections

**Alison:** We’d also like to know why your prices change randomly for no good reason. You have no competition, how can we be sure you’re not just charging us what you want?