



ACTION PLAN FINAL REPORT

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Introduction and background information:

Around the world, we have seen a huge rise in anti-Asian hate crimes ever since the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. However, anti-Asian hate crimes have existed in America since the 1850s, when a large number of Chinese immigrants began coming to the United States looking for better job opportunities. They would often work in mining and railroad construction because there was high demand for these dangerous, low-wage jobs, and Chinese immigrants were willing to fill them. Unfortunately, the racist trope of “Asians coming to steal White jobs” was soon born. It refers to how these “Chinese” people would come and take jobs from the white Americans who thought they were superior to them and “deserved the jobs more”. What’s worse is that in 1854, the California Supreme Court reinforced racism against Asian immigrants in *People v. Hall*, ruling that people of Asian descent could not testify against a White person in court, virtually guaranteeing that Whites could escape punishment for anti-Asian violence anytime. Here in my home country of Canada, anti-Asian hate was not far behind either. In 1872, the government of British Columbia changed *The Qualification and Registration of Voters Act*, which prohibited Chinese Canadians and Indigenous peoples from voting in the provincial elections. This huge change was part of a plan to “safeguard” political and economic power among the white residents. What is even more unfortunate is that other than stripping Asian Americans and Canadians of their fundamental rights and humiliating them, many Asian people were also subjected to physical violence and many innocent lives were taken. An example would be the famous case in America known as the *Los Angeles Chinese massacre of 1871*. On the fateful day of Oct. 24, 1871, a mob of about 500 Anglo and Latino men rioted in Los Angeles’ Chinatown

where many Chinese Americans were living there at the time. They murdered nearly 20 Chinese immigrants and injured many more. This Chinese Massacre marked the first time Los Angeles made national headlines - a cruel and atrocious stain on the city's public image that would never ever be erased and would forever remain a dark part of Los Angeles's history.

You might think that over time the issue of anti-asian hate would soon get better as more people are more aware and educated right? Well, you're partially right. In the late 1800s and early 1900s racism against Asians were still at large. In 1882, The Congress of America passed the Chinese Exclusion Act—the only United States law to prevent immigration and naturalization on the basis of race—which restricted Chinese immigration for the next sixty years to come. There was also a "Chinese Must Go" movement that was so strong and influential during that time that Chinese immigration to the United States declined from 39,500 people in 1882 to only 10 in 1887. Things started to change when in 1970, a park ranger discovered many sets of Chinese characters carved into the wooden walls of barracks at a detention center on Angel island, which opened the gates to awareness of how the Asian Americans were treated and what they experienced. These carvings bore witness to the bitterness and frustration of excluded Chinese immigrants who carved more than one hundred poems into the walls, demonstrating a taste of what they felt and their language. That detention center is now a historical landmark. Things eventually started to get better as many people started to recognize the issue and started to speak out about the issue. Many Asian Americans also spoke out and fought for their rights and freedom. Making and changing history for them for our future.

Now the issue that I will be presenting today stems directly from the issue of discrimination and racism and the issue of representation of chinese culture. I have noticed that in my community ever since the pandemic, many people have been misrepresenting my culture

and mocking them. During the days of the pandemic, I have had times where I was discriminated against. One of the most notable instances was during my lunch period at a time when the pandemic was at its peak, when a student came up to me and started to yell at me and call me racist names and calling me a bat eating —(for context, he called me a swear word). Another instance was during Asian heritage month at our school, I was wearing a traditional Hanfu (A chinese cultural clothing.) Some people started to laugh at me and I even overheard one person say that my “culture” was way too embarrassing to be represented at the moment (due to the pandemic). I remember crying to my mom that night and sobbing my heart out. When I had the opportunity to create an action plan for this course, I knew this was the right issue to focus on.

Action plan:

My action plan is to create a school cultural club that focuses on sharing my culture and heritage with the people in my school and hopefully in the future, my community as well. Now to summarize my issue and problem again, my issue is the lack of proper awareness and representation of Chinese culture in my community and school, therefore our culture is often negatively represented leading to Anti-asian hate. My vision for this club is for this club to be a safe space for its members to be able to both learn and experience traditional Chinese culture and activities while also being able to share their stories with one another by having a place where they can have fun while also interacting with each other to learn or experience a culture. I want this to be a place where my culture can be positively shared and not negatively judged.

Now to better understand my club and whether or not it's effective, let's weigh its pros and cons. First, at my school it's very easy to start a club, finding members is also not an issue as my school has a relatively large population of students and asian students who would be

interested in joining my club. By utilizing this club, I can easily expand its influence to a larger community as it serves as a strong base for the cause. The only major cons I can think of is funding and having continuous support for this club. However, these issues can be resolved. For example, we can have crowdfunding campaigns and use money generated by events from the club to help raise money for any funding needs. Finding continuous support for our club can also be solved by having a strong social media platform to continue promoting the club, engaging with the community through social media will help people continuously show up to club meetings and participate in activities. It can also generate new members who might be interested as well. Therefore, I believe that creating a culture club, the pros outweigh the cons. Plus I even have some necessary skills needed for the success and creation of this club. For example, not only am I a Chinese person who has been heavily involved with Chinese culture since my youth, I was also told before that I am a very convincing and confident person when presenting. Combining my knowledge of Chinese culture and my communication skills, this is going to be my ticket to convince people to join, which is extremely important for my action plan, especially if I wish to expand this club further.

I'm now going to move onto explaining the actual plan and timeline of my action plan.

Before starting a club at my school, there are 2 conditions I need to fulfill:

1. Having a team of at least 3 executives who are responsible with helping me run the various needs of the club. Positions include: Secretary (for managing schedules), treasurer (for managing club funds), etc.
2. Having a teacher advisor who will oversee the club as the adult present.

Let's tackle the first condition: executives. This will be relatively simple as I already have in mind 3 of my good friends who are both trustworthy and responsible enough to be next to me

running this club and who are willing as well. For the teacher advisor, I have a good relationship with many of my teachers and some have even talked about being a teacher advisor for me if I ever decide to start a club, notably my English teacher is one teacher I have the best relationship with, she is a candidate that I can have as my advisor. Now this solves these 2 criterias. Moving on to after I've created the club, I will begin immediately with creating a social media page/platform for the club. This way we can start promoting the club and recruiting members. I will have a position for an executive who will coordinate social media management with me so that both of us will not be as stressed out. Now eventually, there will be members flocking in. The activities will be very important to demonstrate our cause and to attract these members. I have a couple of ideas already for club activities. Some include: traditional Chinese calligraphy and art, creating lucky charms out of strings and beads, fun games that show the Chinese culture, etc. Now one of my short term goals is to allow my club to run for at least a semester. This gives a good amount of time for members to experience the club and talk about the positives and negatives of the club, which is vital for improvement. A long term goal would be to expand the club further and instead of a school club, i plan to start it as a non-profit by partnering with the Asian Solidary Funds which is a non-profit based in Canada that plans to stop asian hate and bring awareness to the issue. I personally believe that my plan is a good idea because my country faces large amounts of Asian hate ever since the pandemic and my community, there's still a lot of people who belittle and make fun of Chinese culture. Right now we have a lot of negative stereotypes about us and our culture and we need to fix that first. and I believe their idea helps because we will be introducing true Chinese culture to people as well as educating them about what our culture truly is in a fun way for engagement.

Evaluation:

My ultimate goal is to establish a club where all students and members can both appreciate and understand the richness of Chinese culture and its history. This club will provide an opportunity for the Chinese community at our school to celebrate and share their culture with the broader community. I aim for it to be a welcoming space where everyone is accepted for who they are, and where we can challenge and dismantle negative stereotypes about Chinese culture that can harm our society. I hope to celebrate my culture with others and represent my community proudly as a Chinese woman. I will recognize the success of this plan by the number of engaged members who share these values, our ability to raise awareness and funds to combat anti-Asian hate, and the genuine satisfaction of the members with the activities offered by asking for feedback from club members after each meeting and every semester me and my team will debrief on the feedback to improve for the next semester. I believe that the first 6 months will be a good time to reflect on my progress and assess my success. This allows me and my team to have an adequate amount of time to gather feedback. I plan to evaluate my plan by keeping a record of my goals such as: Member amount and fundraising amount, and make sure that I reach my target goals. I consider this club to be a success when I reach or close to those goals.

Self-Reflection:

When developing this action plan, The first ever feeling was determination and pure dedication. As said, I have experienced discrimination first hand, nasty ones. As a result, I was more than happy to put my effort into this action plan as one day, it could serve as a guide for the implementation of this club. One challenge I definitely had was the detailedness of the action plan. I truly did not expect the action plan to need so much detail, however when I look back I

realized that it really was important and I believe that I was just not used to writing so much detail into something like this before. Which is both exciting and challenging at the same time. The most impactful thing was when I completed it, I realized my hard work and dedication to this cause and I really did feel like I've done something meaningful for this cause.

Sources of information: (APA References) (Used Google docs tools for references)

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