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My concerns with inclusion, diversity, and equity have been central to my life. As an Asian, queer, ethnically mixed person, I have experienced a significant degree of marginalization, and believe that experience provides a unique perspective. I come from a family of mixed ethnic heritage, where my parents are Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese: I was thus raised in a multicultural environment where all three cultures and languages blended together.

My experiences as a person of three unique cultures pushed me to advocate for my minoritized peers. Part of the reason I turned to tutoring in high school was to support minoritized students who experience marginalization like myself. I particularly enjoyed mentoring biracial or other minoritized students because there was often an implicitly shared connection, where it was easier to open up and support each other.

At my current position as a teaching assistant, I am interested in empowering underrepresented students by providing more support and inclusive learning environments. The past experiences as a K-12 tutor shaped my perspective, where I strive to support students by being aware of their environment and upbringing. I encourage and mentor my students to learn at their own pace and be aware of themselves. I ensure that my students have access to the resources they need, and encourage them to do what they need to succeed through transparency and honesty. I also reach out to students who are struggling in the class to help them achieve their goals.

In the future, I would like to be actively involved in furthering diversity through community action. I want to continue empowering underrepresented students in learning environments and encouraging students to reach their goals. To me, empowerment means that I check my own biases and privileges by having honest conversations with the communities I interact with and understanding their perspective. It also means that I question the current systems that harm communities, ensuring that my peers have what they need to succeed, and ensuring that everyone's voices are heard.