**Outline**

* Opening talking about religion
* What religion means to me
* Experience 1
* Experience 2
* Introduce Argument
* Introduce Article 1
* Relate article to experiences
* Introduce Article 2
* Relate article to experiences
* What I’ve learned
* Conclusion
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**Opening on Religion**

* Why faith / religion is important
* Religion is important in Cape Town
* Cape Town’s heritage/history/cultural mix influences religion.
* But then where does that leave me? No aspects of my cultural bubble overlap with religion. Religion is out of my cultural bubble which is why I chose to use it as the subject of my cultural bubble project.
* Why a focus on Christianity and not Islam? Decision maybe facilitated by a stereotype/generalization? I resemble a Christian more than a Muslim. I blend in more in one group than the other. I wasn’t sure if muslims would view my presence and actions (to observe them) as innapropriate/in poor taste/offensive. I was trying to be polite.

**What Religon Means to Me**

* Never considered myself religious, not part of my identity
* Never been to church service
* Barely a clue of what happens during service
* “Raised atheist” by public school and parents
* I’ve always had this thought about why worship a god that lets bad things happen.
* Similarly: GoT quote. “If your god demands to kill children then he is a bad god”
* I think its silly to worship an all powerful “God” who made us in his own image. Why not the giant flying spaghetti monster. What makes one more beliveable than the other?
* Even though I don’t consider myself religous, I don’t hold prejudice against those that do.
* They have found faith, while I have not found mine. And its nice to have faith. Faith is a beautful human emotion.
* I’ve wanted to experience faith atleast once, so I used this project as an excuse to go to church twice.

**Experience 1**

* going to nice church in rondebosch commons. non-denominational
* don’t want to sit in front middle
* don’t know my terminiology
* band 4 songs- 3 english, 1 xhosa
* people reaching out/on knees praying/eyes closed/singing along during songs
* embracing christ’s love
* pastor dressed casually
* service dedicated to those who are new
* wealthy church and contemporary
* 200 whites, < 5 non whites
* mostly students
* 3 different services: midday family service, 2-nighttime student services
* announcement of new baptisms
* Pay to go to church, “the offering”
* holiday club volunteering
* volunteer for the homeless
* sermon on generosity: “I’m not asking for your money, jesus is asing for your money”. Similar experience with people from overnight township experience
* study bibles / phone-bibles
* passage analysis of christ’s generosity and those who aren’t– took the most time. wish I wrote down the verse but I forgot to
* books, snacks

**Experience 2**

* methodist church next to house
* watching from across street ~1 hour
* max 2 early morning services
* worn building, not extravagent by any means
* much smaller seating area
* worse location, tucked into a small lot with very little parking options
* majority black church. cant speak to numbers because I didn’t attend sermon
* church choir – stereotypical for black church?
* service relatively short. singing dominated the time
* matching attire of red/black suits on men. Some women wearing the same style of dress
* 2 mini-van taxis parked outside waiting for service to finish

**Argument –** Segregation and inequality exist within Cape Town’s religious scene, but segregation is purposeful / intentional / accepted / welcomed / tolerated despite the inequality. Has apartheid influenced today’s lack of diversity in congregations a.k.a racial self-segregation?

**Article 1**

* Segregation in South Africa
* <http://overcomingapartheid.msu.edu/sidebar.php?id=65-258-6>
* <http://www.sahistory.org.za/article/dutch-reformed-church-drc>
* http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci\_arttext&pid=S1017-04992015000200002

**Article 2**

* Segregation in United States and elsewhere
* http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/document.php?id=cqresrre1954090300
* <http://archives.relevantmagazine.com/god/church/features/17095-why-is-the-church-so-segregated>
* http://religionandpolitics.org/2015/04/07/what-can-be-done-about-segregation-in-churches/

**What I’ve Learned**

* Self-segregation is not a myth.
* Basically put, people like familiarity. This gives them comfort and, to a degree, a sense of security. As just about every individual seeks these things, natural segregation is the result. You can see this segregation take place, be it by nationality, religion and even disability. This could go a long way as to explain why there are certain all black or all-muslim neighborhoods in predominantly white countries.

**Conclusion**