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WR150

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Self Assessment

As an international student, after reading and watching Kendi, Turabian, Ewing, Wineburg, and the debate, I am eager to research and learn about the civil rights and the education system in the United States. As a foreigner, I believe comparing the positive and negative sides of the American civil rights and education with my home country would be a great learning experience for me. On the other hand, the topic of our class would be challenging for me, because I do not have much background information about American history compared to those who grew up in America.

While watching Ewing's video, I felt that this class might be a very challenging experience for me. I grew up in Korea, and came to the United States when I was a Sophomore in high school. Everything I know about American history is a small portion of the whole history that I learned in highschool. Ewing emphasizes, in her book and in the video, that it is very important to understand the history of America's education system in order to know and understand the current education system. This awakens my curiosity about the history of America's history of the education system, but at the same time, I feel that the ignorance of American culture would be the most challenging part during the semester.

"American Civil Rights" is a very hard area for me to fully understand the principle of it. I grew up in Korea where you can barely find someone having issues with civil rights. Although "Women Rights" is currently an issue in Korea, the root of it is different from the "Civil Rights" in America. I think this would be a challenge for me to fully understand the "Civil Rights" in the past, and moreover, current issues about civil rights.

Even though I feel challenging to understand the history of America's education system and civil rights, ignorance can be an advantage to me. As I stated above, I only know a very small portion of the American history, and I do not have any background knowledge of the American culture. This can be a challenge for me, but at the same time, it means that I do not have any prejudices against any of the stances. I can learn and understand things with an open mind, and think objectively when it comes to situations that various standards exist.

As can be found above, learning and researching about the criteria that I do not fully understand would be the greatest challenge for me. However, the reason that I chose this topic for WR150 is because I felt that "not knowing" at the starting line might affect positively when researching. I am looking forward to learn more about the civil rights movement and the education in America, and ultimately to be able to compare the positive and negative sides of two different countries in civil rights and education.