

Walking a mile in my shoes

I am a native of Ghana, a country located in West Africa. I was born and raised in Accra, the capital city of Ghana. Since the day I was born to the day I set foot in the US, I was surrounded with people of my all kind. In school, most of the kids were Akan, one of the first ethnic tribes in Ghana. Also, everyone was required to speak English during school hours. About 95% of the student were Christians so sermons were held twice a week. During the sermons every student was forced to learn the Bible and gospel songs, making it extremely uncomfortable for non-Christians like me. We also had to wear uniforms and cut our hair. If someone was physically disabled, that person was required to attend a special school. At home, I lived with people of the same religion and interests. Accra lacked diversity to the extent that some kids had never seen a Caucasian before. Kids thought that every fair skinned person was white and all Asians were Chinese. The only sport kids were familiar with was soccer. All the songs sung by artist were either R&B; or rap. Everywhere I went, I felt as though I was meeting the same group of people over again.

Even though Atlanta is known to be diverse, where I lived a two years was a different story. The town in which I lived was occupied by mostly white people who had confederate flags hanging by their doors. There were few public buses because the white people believe that the public buses would give black people the chance to settle there. In Atlanta, the black people were either Africans and Jamaicans. Before I arrived in New Jersey, I had no idea what a Jew was. I also thought all Spanish speaking people came from Mexico.

At the age of fourteen, setting foot in New Jersey was a new experience for me. As I walk down the halls of West Orange High, I wonder to myself about the possibility of the existence of such a diverse community. Students are not required to wear uniforms or have the same hair style. I know students that originate from all over the world such as Haiti, Germany, Japan, India, Canada, Mexico, Ireland and several others. Also, there are different religion beliefs such as Jews, Catholics, Moslems and Atheists who celebrate different holidays such as Hannukah, Ramadan, and Christmas. There are students who are Republicans, Democrats, either, or both. Some students love to listen to rock and roll while others love rap music. Some listen to pop, R&B; and classical music. Students also have different sport interest. Others enjoy hockey while some love football. Everyone is given the same opportunity despite physical abilities. Everyone in the school seems to have a unique style.

At home, my neighborhood is share among families from different backgrounds from around the world. One of the neighboring families is Jewish, while another is Philleppines. While taking a tour of the town, I realize every place is occupied by people from different races. Restaurants located in West Orange serve a variety of dishes. Also, their occasions held in West Orange to celebrate different cultures, countries, and religions. Even though we sometimes have different opinions, I respect my classmates and neighbors because I learn

more than I already know about my community. it also enjoy helping the needy although they may not belong to the same culture because it motivates the needy to help others outside of my culture or religion.it also helps me understand more about the different cultures and religions.The idea of diversity helps me grow as a person by forcing me out of my comfort zone to interact with others from around the world.I lie everybody to understand to respect and accept each other because it dominates race, culture and belief superiority. It also helps eliminate the possibility of conflicts in the future. If I appreciate diversity, everyone will benefit because everyone will be motivated to help each other and make the world a better place.