

Do you believe that diversity is beneficial? Do you believe that the world would be a better place if everyone respected and accepted each other? Do you believe others should be respected even though they are not the same? Diversity is an essential factor in a society. People are all puzzle pieces in a picture puzzle. We might all be different shapes with different images, but when combined, we perfectly form a picture. It is what helps people learn about variety of cultures, others ways of living, and different styles of doing things. One must value that there are different people in the world because if everyone was the same, having the same race, gender, social or economic status, abilities and beliefs, there would be no more interesting moments in life. People mostly criticize people by their race and it is very commonly seen in New Jersey today. Unique people in a society are what give the people the vibrant spark and delicious flavor their lives are in need of. People with diverse backgrounds should all be able to respect and accept each other. The world would be completely different if everyone would accept each other for who they are as an individual.

Respect is something necessary in a society and without it there is no chance for the society to prosper. One must give respect to gain respect, and many miss this concept in the world of today. Many take it as one must receive respect in order to give it back. In a society as the one in New Jersey with such a wide range of cultures, one must learn to be more humble and set differences aside. There is no need to judge others by their ethnicity or beliefs. As Anne Frank once said, "We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same. "one could achieve so much if people would just close their eyes for a mere mille second and open their hearts to get to know people and understand them for what lies inside. Doing this, one will receive the opportunity to see that many differences we see today are going to be seen as not so different at all.

Difference benefits us all in some way or another. Many should know by now that one could take advantage of being surrounded by such a diverse group of people. If everyone were the same, there will be nothing different and exciting about to learn and experience. People residing in Africa would not have the opportunity to learn about the Hispanic cultures of Mexico, including their "tamales" which is a very well-known food from that country. Those residing in South America would never learn about the activities of Canadians such as hockey, one of their favorite sport activities. In Europe, they would never know the culture of India such as the dances used in Bollywood movies, which is a very famous dance style there. We all a happy melting pot, and together we form a strong bond that makes us all be unified.

I currently live in New Jersey, but I was not born in here in New Jersey or the United States. I was born in Argentina, and in my home country I was not exposed to such diversities as I am today in New Jersey. One thing that I will never get out of my head is beans. In Argentina one is barely seen eating beans and when one eats them it is something strange because it is not something to see everyday. When I came here I was merely only five year

old. The first city I lived in was Jersey City, but no long after I moved to Elizabeth. Being that the majority of the population in Elizabeth is Colombians, I was introduced to variety of different customs, especially in the food category. One of these was beans. Even though I was young, I can somehow still remember the delicious taste and the sweet and salty aroma of steaming black beans that my stepdad made for us one day, so we could try it. After that day I became a lover of beans. Reflecting on that today, I see how different my life would be without diversity. I would have stuck to the same menu everyday and not have tasted a bit of anything new. Many people say that the United States is too different because people from all around the world live here, but that is just what we must love it about. We are such a unique country, and we should be proud of living in New Jersey because it is one of the states that hold the most amount of different ethnicity. Instead of complaining on how we are different we should rejoice and feel joy for where we live in and the people that surround us.

There have been ongoing situations in the world because of diversity. Some of these are discrimination and genocide. Unfortunately in 1994 genocide occurred in Rwanda where two groups, Tutsi and Hutu, had differences resulting in genocide. Tutsis were seen as superior but were the minority; the Hutus, being the majority, rebelled against the power of the Tutsi and began a massacre against them resulting in a loss of thousands of people. An uncountable number of situations similar if this type have "happened, some being even worse, both before and after. Seeing this, one would say "never again". Has it really been put to a halt? No! we still see it in the Congo and Sudan. These factors must be things that tell us that differences have to be solved in order to truly take advantage that we have differences.

In every single kind of way, every single person is created equal, whether they are children, women or men. Diversity is a part of everyday life. Life without diversity is like limiting knowledge of the world. Life without diversity is like seeing rainbow with dull colors such as brown, navy blue, and black. This horrid rainbow is definitely not as pleasant as seeing the vibrant colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet, penetrating one's pupils. I believe diversity is beneficial. I believe that the world would be a better place if everyone respected and accepted each other. I believe others should be respected even though they are not the same.