

what it's really like

do differences like religion,
sexuality & skin color
affect how we treat each other?

khushi khant



I'm unique because I'm Indian. I've grown up in a bilingual household. I volunteer for SHSS, the Sikh Honors and Service Society. I'm not Sikh myself, but I really like to explore others' religions and cultures; it helps me learn more about them. There's so much diversity, so I don't always fit in. [But] we're all aware of that. It's okay to be different.

We're a really diverse community. Learning about each other and our cultural differences

makes us a lot stronger and [helps us] understand everyone. We have a lot of clubs at our school that highlight different cultures, so I think [race] isn't a big issue at our campus, because everyone is able to show their own culture or religion.

Being different isn't a bad thing. It's actually a strength for our community. If everyone was the same, there wouldn't be anything to make people unique or special.

naareen kaler



My Punjabi culture makes me unique. It's been a huge part of my life since I was little. My sister and I bond over our culture, and that has kept us together.

I went to school in a different district, [and] there weren't that many people of the Punjabi culture. Back then I felt uncomfortable talking about my culture because no one really knew about it. But here at Whitney, there are so many people of Indian nationality, and I feel like I can relate. People are accepting and embrace it and treat everyone with respect.

I've seen people being judged because of their appearance, even though it hasn't happened to me. There was a guy who had a turban on, and these boys were making fun of him. It made me feel really sad and uncomfortable, even though I wasn't actually a part of it. I hope and believe that it's getting better.

If we learn more about different cultures, people would be more knowledgeable. Don't be ashamed of your culture — use it as a tool to become more powerful.

armaan sharma



I am opinionated, but I try to be respectful of other people's opinions. I'm very sarcastic, and I like to think I'm funny. But I hate flying. I hate flying because my dad always gets pulled aside. They do a full pat down and everything, and I can always tell he's embarrassed. The look in his eyes is that he's embarrassed that his kids have to see it, that we have to see him humiliated like that. He's kind of raised us or taught us that it's something that's probably going to happen to [us] as well.

For a lot of people, it's hard to listen to somebody having that [kind] of experience, but the way that things really change is if the world has a little more empathy. If everyone just tried to be a little bit more sympathetic toward each other instead of hating one another, I think that this world, [and] especially our campus, could be a much better place.

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