

Ethical Autobiography

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Introduction

I am from two different cultures, but even though they are different they make me who I am today. Without my background, I would not be the person that I am today and they are so diverse that they actually come together really well. With both of the cultures being loud and open, when both of my parents sides come together no one can hardly get a word in because they are talking over each other and I love every minute of it.

Racial Identities of My Family

My family comes from two diverse cultures racial backgrounds. On my mother's side, both my grandmother and grandfather are both Native American, Lumbee. Therefore my mother is full Lumbee and from her side I am half Lumbee. On my father's side, both of my grandparents are German/ European; therefore my father is full German/ European. My father's biological dad was not there for his entire life but his last name was "Barron", which is how I got my last name and it is of German decent. I am very lucky to have such diverse family members that can teach me so much. I have always loved my family even though I have just found out that I am German/ European, I will still embrace it as I do with my Native American culture.

Importance of Racial Identity

On my mother's side, I have always been involved in my Native American culture. Ever since I was a child, we have always went to powwows in Robenson County and I have always been around my Native American family because they live so close to me, but we all take the Native American culture very seriously. We always try to educate someone with the culture that we know and love so much. On the other hand, my father's family lives far away and I have not spent as much time with them, only during the holidays every other year because it is so expensive to travel during this day and age.

Identities of Neighborhoods of Family Members

On my mother's side, I do not know where my grandparents were raised but my mother lived in Rowland, North Carolina, exit number one on interstate 95. Robenson County is a county that is in poverty, so my mother's intermediate family did not have enough income to allow them to have nice objects that were popular when they were children or throughout high school. Her family lived in a neighborhood that had a total of five houses in it and all of the individuals that lived in the neighborhood were Native American, Lumbee. After she attended UNCP to obtain her Bachelor's degree in Social Work, she moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina to begin her new career. On the other hand, my father's parents grew up in a very nice neighborhood that was mostly composed of Caucasian individuals. However, my father grew up on a farm in Wichita, Kansas and then moved to a suburb when he was in middle school but still in Kansas. My father went into the military as soon as he graduated high school and has served in the military for ten years. Then after he injured his forearm, he has worked for Fort Bragg and now he is employed at a truck driving industry. Now both of my parents live in Fayetteville, North Carolina and have raised my sister and me and also have adopted a younger brother, 5 years ago. We have lived in Fayetteville all of my life and have been lucky to have not moved around a lot due to my father being in the military.

Perceptions of Parents Attitudes

My family has always been accepting towards other racial diverse groups of people and is always willing to learn about them. I have been in public school my whole life, so therefore I have befriended a lot of individuals in my childhood. They have never treated any one of my friends different from another because they let me judged the character of my friends and they trust the people that I have chosen to hang out with.

Life Experiences during Childhood

Negative life experiences during childhood was one when I was friends with a male that was racially different than I was and my parents thought we were getting too close so they did not want me to be friends with him anymore. That was the only time that I can remember that my parents were not accepting of a person of another race was not allowed over to my house. A positive life experience with a racially different person than myself, was that I had friends that were racially different than me and others that were not racially different and when I brought them together they seemed to get along together better than I had expected.

Ethnically different Invited to my Home

All of my friends that were ethnically diverse were allowed to my house. My family has met many diverse people because of the careers that they have chosen. My mother is a social worker and my father was in the military, therefore they have been around many different races and cultures and have learned to respect them.

Attitudes, Perceptions, and Behaviors

When I am around certain races I feel uncomfortable because of the stereotypes that I have heard growing up. With my family being very diverse and I am always around different races, I feel that I should be more comfortable around people that are racially different because of my parent's jobs and the fact that I have been around that my entire life. For example, when I am around Mexican men I feel that they are just staring at me and they make me feel uncomfortable because I am wondering why they are staring at me. Also, I also feel uncomfortable around African American men because they also stare at me for long periods of time and I wonder why they are staring at me.

Comments about Others Racially Different

Throughout my life I have heard so many racial slurs from many people. Even though I am not against any races I have also been guilty of using racial slurs against them as well. Such as, Mexicans would be called “wet backs” because they usually would be forced into slavery and they would sweat a lot and their backs would be soaking wet. Another racial slur would be calling Caucasian’s would be called “crackers” because of their white skin color. I am learning that they are all the same and no one deserves to be discriminated against.

Groups, Churches, and Organizations

As of now, I am not involved in groups or organizations that are racially diverse, but I plan to become more racially diverse based on my social work classes and I plan to join the social work club before I graduate because I feel that it would be a great experience to have in my college career. As of my church, I attend a church that is mostly Native Americans with some that are racially diverse. Ever since I was a child I have always went to a church that was mostly Native Americans.

My Friends

I have had many racially diverse friends throughout my childhood and now that I am in college I am meeting a lot more people that are racially diverse because they come from all over the country.

Conclusion

I have learned that even though I am racially diverse, I still have to learn that everyone is the same and no one deserves to be discriminated against. I am very grateful to have been able to meet so many people that are racially diverse because they are also what have made me the person I am today.