

What is my earliest memory of race? Have I had any negative experiences associated with my racial identity or that of someone else? When did I become racially conscious? From whom or in what period of life did I learn the most about race and diversity? Can I describe the different stages of racial identity development I've gone through and what made me aware of each? What concerns me about my racial past?

I haven't really had any issues in regards to my race but I think I could say while in the subway waiting for the train when I was around 18 years old I was talking on the phone in Spanish and I got dirty looks and small comments from a group of white people so I started to talk in English to avoid any issues. I also once had a crack head and yes I said crack head sir. Come up to me drugged calling me a Mexican and to go back to my country and threatening me and I told her I am not Mexican I was born here to Puerto Rican and American parents but it still escalated until I had to make physical threats for my own safety. I was raised up in a racist family household if I am to be honest with you so always being taught stereotypes and who to stay away from and who not to be friends with and so on including if I were to date anyone how he must be either American or Puerto Rican but no outsiders no Blacks, Mexicans, Dominicans etc.. I became racially conscious around the age of 16 where I started to make friends from all over the place in person and online so it was different backgrounds and ethnicities and I started to be very open minded and seeing things from my perspective as other people from different nationalities to be literally normal and I stopped with the stereotypes. In 2018 is when I learned about race and diversity the most when I was accepted into Borough of Manhattan Community College, which is a very diverse community in Tribeca and I learned so much and was very surprised to have my very first black professor who had pride to have earned his PHD and let's just say that class was very eye opening for me and diversity. Being racist to open and not racist or judgemental the process was real but very necessary and important, I went from being closed minded based on what I was taught on race and stereotypes to learning years after to being open minded to not put people into different boxes based on their skin color or racial identity. What concerns me about my past was how disrespectful I must have been before and hurtful to others unintentionally and it being too late to fix my mistakes from when I was younger. What encourages me about my racial past? What encouraged me a lot to see the wrong from my racial past was mainly History classes and when I see others being very racists including my family still and I tell them that they shouldn't think that way or threaten others the way they do.

This last question here I was watched and seen a lot of racial injustice especially throughout the news with police brutality and so being a criminal justice major in hopes of becoming police officer I want to be that one person to make a change I may not be able to fix the whole problem but it is my dedication with pride to make a difference to the best of my ability in the future to others.