

Orlando Martinez

Profesor Perez

Our America

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Racial Autobiography

My earliest memory of race was all the way in middle school, that is where a lot of kids were cruel and made a lot of racist jokes, especially when someone says “not to be racist” and proceeds to say something very racist. Through middle school that never really sit well with me because before that I never experienced someone being made fun of because of the color of their skin like they are born like that. Middle school was a crazy time for me because that is where you really start to develop and who you are going to be thanks to my parents raising me to know what is wrong and what is right because many kids in middle school never had parents to tell them what is wrong and right.

My experience with racial identity was why couldnt I be white throughout middle school I would always see commercials and see white people which it didn't really bothered me at all but I always thought if I was white maybe i'd be better looking and I didnt appreciate at the time what I had and that God gave me my body and that I should cherish it. At the time all I would see that being white meant being better looking than

everyone else so I wanted to be white but now I am proud to be Puerto Rican and mixed race.

I became racially conscious in 8th grade I really saw inequality sometimes, I felt like the white kids in middle school and even in high school were better off and preferred to do trusting things, I always wanted a black teacher because there I felt safe and that I could do better.

In 8th grade I had my first black teacher and he taught me history, I loved his class and that is where I learned a lot about race and diversity, as an 8th grader I felt I was mature enough and he showed us lots of things even what happened to Emmet Till, he even showed us a picture of how he was found since they beat him to death and in that 8th grade classroom alone is where I learned a lot and was always eager to learn more and hear what he had to say.

The different stages of racial identity is Awareness, Commitment and Relationships, also known as ARC. Ive been through them and I guess what made me aware of these was in high school its really important to see the signs and speak up. Nothing really concerns me about my racial past, i am glad who I am today which is a mixed Puerto Rican because the majority of all Puerto Ricans are all mixed race.

What encourages me is the pride of being Puerto Rican, there is so much pride in that I cant think of any other country where almost all of the people are proud and love where they come from.