

*What is my earliest memory of race?*

Il primo ricordo che ho se si parla di “razza” diversa risale a quando ho incontrato un bambino, che poi sarebbe diventato il mio migliore amico, che aveva la mamma colombiana e quindi sia lei che lui erano più scuri dello standard.

Chiedendo ai miei genitori il perchè mi spiegarono che lei proveniva da una zona del mondo dove il sole è molto forte e quindi l’essere umano sviluppa caratteristiche basate al posto dove vive.

*Have I had any negative experiences associated with my racial identity or that of someone else?*

I was five or six years old and before that, my social circle consisted exclusively of Italian children, all of whom were of the same race as me. However, after Gabriel's arrival, I began to notice racial differences more acutely. I also started playing football elsewhere which exposed me to people of various races. My awareness of racing has been further heightened by travel.

*From whom or in what period of life did I learn the most about race and diversity?*

In my opinion, my knowledge and understanding of race and diversity increased significantly when I began traveling to different countries and immersing myself in various cultures. This allowed me to make friends from all around the world and gain valuable insights into their unique experiences. Furthermore, since coming to the US, I have continued to learn a great deal about race and diversity, and have come to appreciate the importance of embracing and celebrating differences.

*Can I describe the different stages of racial identity development I've gone through and what made me aware of each?*

All I can say is that the values my family passed on to me are the ones that made me aware of racial differences. To me, every individual deserves to be treated equally regardless of race. I believe it is important to refrain from judging someone before you get to know them. I constantly remind myself to treat others as I would like to be treated and I believe this approach has helped me to be more caring and empathetic towards individuals of all races.

*What concerns me about my racial past?*

To be honest, I don't really think about my racial background very often. I've never personally experienced racism directed towards me, nor have I ever acted in a racist manner towards others. As a result, I don't have any strong feelings or memories associated with my race, and it doesn't play a significant role in how I identify myself or interact with others.

*What encourages me about my racial past?*

I would describe myself as open-minded when it comes to other races. I enjoy learning about different cultures and traditions, and strive to be understanding and accepting of those who come from diverse backgrounds. When there was negative talk about Syrian refugees in my community, I stood by my belief that we shouldn't judge them without knowing their story, background, culture, or traditions. I think it's important to approach people with empathy and an open heart, rather than preconceived notions or prejudices.

*Why do I "do" racial justice? What is the purpose for me?*

In my opinion, it's crucial to treat all individuals equally and ensure that everyone has the same rights. However, when we observe our society, it becomes clear that this ideal is not yet a reality. People of Color, for instance, are still not treated the same way as white individuals, and it is up to our generation to work towards eradicating this disparity. Similarly, women continue to face inequality and discrimination in comparison to men. It is our responsibility to create a more just and equitable society, where every individual is treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their race, gender, or any other factor.