

Georgia's Group Overview

"Who are you, what are you, where are you from, no, where are you really from, where are your parents from, are your grandparents American? Are you from here, what's your background, what's your nationality, where do you live? Are you black, are you white, do you speak Spanish? Are you really white, are you really black? Are you Puerto Rican, are you half and half, are you biracial, multiracial, interracial, transracial, racially unknown, race neutral, colorless, color-blind, down with the rat race or human race? Who are you? Where are you coming from? Who are you people?"

-Jones (1994, pp.53-66) Intro. "New Faces in a Changing American" by Winters/DeBose

These are just a few questions answer to people that don't look white. But who made the definition of what white really is? Is it just physical looks? Or is more? I am Greek and I look white but I don't check off as being white. I check off "other". People perceive me as being white and American but that's just their outlook of who I am; I identify as Greek. This semester I learned a lot about other people's experiences either as a monoracial, multiracial, or transracial individual. Each persons experience is different because of the way they've took a situation or the way see they either their identity and/ or their race. Also I've learned a lot about the adoptee community. I have never met an adoptee especially ones that identify as a monoracial, multiracial, or transracial. This gave me an opportunity to talk to them and ask those questions that had to do with their identity, experiences, and how they identify themselves.

Everyone sees their identity differently than another. These different looks help a person understand who they are and what they are made up of. An identity is who you think you are, who you are perceived to be, who you associate with, gender, culture, race, and who you are. All these questions make up an identity but it's not a label that others give you it's been chosen by the individual. Others can label you differently but it's you that knows exactly who you are and what that means to you as an individual.

Race was a big part of this semester. We learned that race is not biological, but a social construction that a group distinguishes in a social relationship by physical characteristics. Each person sees race differently because some people assume it's what you look like (physical) and the outer features and then some just see how you talk or act. It's different for people because they haven't been educated to know what the difference is and they assume that you're born with race that people assign.

My group and I enjoyed working on our project because it was a topic that we could all relate too. The rest of my group could relate better to the experiences that we talked about in our project because they are adopted. I was the only one out of the four that wasn't adopted. It wasn't difficult to adjust to being in a group with adoptee because they were all very open individuals and they are "normal" people with "normal" thoughts. They are their own individuals! It was like I was an adoptee because I tried playing the role of one. I asked not only my interviewees questions but also my group members and they were very honest and never judged me not being aware of never meeting adoptee. This helped me be more comfortable with my interviews.

Interviewing a monoracial and multiracial adoptee was very different. The monoracial adoptee never really thought of what their identity or race really meant to them because they never experienced racism or never thought about it. They weren't as open to their thoughts as the multiracial individual. The multiracial interviewee had previously thought about what their identity meant to them and their about experiences of how others perceive them. They were differences with the way they looked at being adopted and their experiences. The monoracial individual never was faced with being made fun of or ever asked "what he was". This individual felt like they were always accepted and feels lucky never have experienced being different.

The multiracial individual on the other hand feels like they were always different from everyone and that people never understood what they said. They were answered "who they were" and "where they came from" everyone day. Their opinions of identity changed a ton of time because they always were faced with new experiences that changed their opinion. They feel like they now have a clear understanding of what their identity means and thank the people around for their help of how they identify. The most common themes that came up during the interviews were about identity, about experiences, outlook on race, and what it met to them on being a monoracial or multiracial adoptee.

In conclusion, identity and race are the most important part of finding "who you are" and "where you come from". The first thing is to find how you want to identify because when you learn to identify a certain way, people then start to understand you better as a person. But this won't stop people from asking the most common questions but will make you better explain your thoughts. When you understand the differences between identity and race, you understand the difference in others and in yourself.