



WOOD, ANDY

Andy is a senior at D.C. Everest and enjoys spending time with his friends. He is trying to break the stereotype of Hmong from a white teenager's view.

I am a typical white American. The Hmong from my point of view are not very different from any other student in this school. Their cultures and history may be different, but then everyone's history is a little different from the Irish to the Germans. The Hmong do have different beliefs though, and they may act a little different in their social life. For one, they tend to stick together with their own race. This is different from other cultures that assimilate into the white society much more easily. The Hmong also stick up for each other while the whites may stick up for people very close to them, but that is as far as it goes. The Hmong are like one big family. They all look out for each other and they are very cautious when dealing with the white culture. The Hmong also work harder to keep their culture. They still have their own religions even though some have switched to Christian.

I think that some Americans think that the Hmong are all in gangs and that they do bad things because the Hmong always stick together and stay out of the whites way of doing things. Some Hmong may join gangs, but I think they do that to enhance the feeling of being in a family. It's like they just gained a huge number of sisters and brothers that they like. I think that the whites just have a biased opinion on how the Hmong are, like the belief that Hmong people eat dogs. This is most certainly not true and may have offended many Hmong people.

I think that the white population just needs some other group to find flaws in so that they can make themselves feel more superior. They have done this in the past. In the colonial days they picked on the Native Americans. After that for the longest time they picked on the Black man. Now they pick on the Asian culture. I think that in the future America will be so diverse that no one group will be larger than any other. This will make it impossible to pick on one.

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