



BOOK REVIEWS:

Practical Solutions to Campus Discrimination

Reviewed by Ecaterina Stepaniuc

Sherwood Thompson and Pam Parry, editors, *Exploring Campus Diversity*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. ISBN 978-1475835038.

Exploring Campus Diversity is an extremely captivating book, as it details a large spectrum of situations that involve campus discrimination and marginalization. It presents an incredible resource guide for those in higher education seeking to facilitate an open conversation about diversity and educate their publics on the importance of inclusion.

Taken as a whole, the book comes to explain that discrimination can happen in any college environment – on a football field, in a college dorm, during a regular class meeting or due to poor policy issues proposed by administration representatives.

Experts from across the United States share a combination of real-life and hypothetical scenarios, all focused on issues related to campus discrimination. Every case study is designed to follow a three-part outline. In the first section, the author gives an overview of the story, the second part continues with a perspective on story framing, and the final section proposes discussion questions meant to continue the conversation on the topic.

You feel captivated by the depth of each case study. At times, you wish you could be present in that college classroom and defend the person who's mistreated or marginalized due to their accent, appearance, social standing or skin color. However, it's encouraging to see how the conversation on stopping discrimination continues through books like "Exploring Campus Diversity." The book gives us practical solutions and encourages us to be accepting of each other's differences. It's also laudable to read about campuses having brave individuals willing to defend the bullied and

stop discrimination in their environment.

The following case studies confirm the significance of books like this one.

- Sherwood Thompson explains in "Questioning the Right to Protest: Taking a Knee at a Homecoming Football Game" how Robert, an African-American college student, was penalized because he took a knee at a Homecoming football game. Noncompliance of the student with the college's stance on certain values left him off of the football team. In addition, his quarterback title was removed, and his scholarship revoked.
- Kathy Pervis, in "A Case Study in 'Belonging': How First-Generation College Students Contribute to Campus Diversity," discusses how an individual's preconception about one's beliefs, age, gender or other characteristics can lead someone to put a person down or to show favoritism. She focuses on first-generation students, who, studies show, are ostracized by professors, school administration and their own peers. Pervis, however, explains that these groups of students actually contribute to campus diversity.

Exploring Campus Diversity doesn't focus only on theoretical aspects of discrimination, but also examines practical solutions that pertain to student inclusion policies on a day-to-day basis. One of the practical suggestions is to facilitate open communication that addresses discrimination.

The materials of this book would make an extremely useful tool for college professors, admissions representatives, college staff and employees willing to

have an open and honest conversation about diversity and inclusion. College professors could easily use the book as a supplement in any ethics or diversity courses, or even as a tool to help them personally navigate these issues.

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