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What diversity means to me.

Based on my experience and the reading, I think true diversity entails socialization into a new culture while maintaining and appreciating the value of one's culture of origin. In the not-too-distant past, the "American melting pot" was promoted as the ideal. The problem with this narrative was that it essentially meant that the newcomer was expected to assimilate into a mainstream Americanism that was shaped by ethnocentrism that devalued the culture and language of the country of origins and required the newcomer to change or repress significant aspects of who they were as a means of enculturation.

This had been the practice the U.S. for involuntary and voluntary immigrations. Slaves in the old South were forbidden to speak that language, practice the religion or wear the hairstyle of their native lands.

This acculturation was enacted in voluntary immigration as well. Immigrants coming through Ellis Island were often given new surnames that were easier for the processor to pronounce or spell.

Even today, many immigrants voluntarily assume "American" names, often to avoid awkward conversation or avoid having their names constantly butchered.

What is "multicultural" education?

A multicultural education's primary objective should aim to reflect that standard and more of the dominant culture while incorporating and respecting the voices and experiences of the students. It should strive to identify and minimize ethnocentricities of the dominate culture that tends to marginalize the value of the original culture and sometimes discourages learning by having lower expectations of people of other ethnicities and cultures.