

17.922  
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### **Question #1**

I found some of the solutions that the speakers propose to be interesting, as they talk about the personal actions that we can take. I rarely consider that I can have an impact on discrimination as a whole by taking personal action.

In the speech by Johnnetta Cole, I found it interesting that she talks about learning how we learn prejudices so that we can unlearn them personally and stop teaching them at a more general level. I hadn't thought before accepting a certain identity and letting people interact with us on the basis of a single identity can be something negative—like in instances when political campaigns target certain groups, like “Hispanics” as if they were a homogenous group that share the same interests. I am used to seeing such messages as something positive as I think of myself as Hispanic and campaigns that say that their candidate is sympathetic with Hispanics may actually work in their interest.

In the speech by Shamarah Hernandez, I found it interesting that she talks encouraging people to follow their interests and being questioned about not majoring in engineering or science field. Being at MIT, people expect that we should major in an engineering field. However, some of us have other interests that we think will help us achieve certain goals that are not related to engineering. So we have to come to an understanding, even at the personal level, that we don't have to follow the same path that most other students are taking.

In the speech by Derek Ham, I found it interesting that that he talks about being aware that all of our actions can have an effect on other people, so that we have to set a good example whenever we interact with other people. I hadn't given much thought

before that I could have a positive effect on other people even in instances when I was not looking to do so.

**Question #2**

Being a Hispanic from El Paso, Texas, I have not had to deal with discrimination based on race as more than 80 % of the population is Hispanic. However, I think, in general, we tend to underestimate our ability which then turns out to become a self-fulfilling belief. We don't have a long history in the U.S. of intellectual achievement. This may in part explain why we tend to undermine our ability to accomplish our goals. So I would say that we could solve this problem by helping to add to this foundation. If we decide to accomplish something within our lifetimes, we can provide a background and history for the next generation. We have to remember that our ancestors in Latin America and Spain have accomplished remarkable things, and we can do the same in the U.S.

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