

Diversity

1. Heterosexism is a system of attitudes, bias, and discrimination in favor of opposite-sex sexuality and relationships.
Bisexuality is a sexual orientation and/or identity of a person who is sexually and emotionally attracted to some males and some females.
Transgender is relating to people who have a sexual identity that is not clearly male or female.
Transsexual is a person who tries to look, dress, and act like a member of the opposite sex.
Transvestite is a person who adopts the dress and often the behavior typical of the opposite sex especially for purposes of emotional or sexual gratification.
2. Racial minorities often feel unwelcomed in predominately white colleges because it is uncomfortable being the minority which may make a person feel "different." For example, if a room was filled with kids who were extremely brilliant and there was one kid who was considered "less brilliant," it would make the minority child who is "less brilliant" feel like he/she doesn't fit in with everyone. This standpoint isn't necessarily always true, but most people would feel like an "outcast" if they were put into the minority group. Another reason racial minorities may feel unwelcomed is cultural reasons. Many different races may raise their child differently. For instance, one parent may teach a child to fight back if they are being bullied and another parent might teach a child to go straight to an adult. The difference in how a child is raised may make one feel uncomfortable when they see other children handling a situation in a different manner. Finally, racial minorities may feel unwelcomed in predominately white colleges because racism was not uncommon in the past and some people still abide by those rules and carry racial stereotypes. This does not apply to everyone, but if anyone has experienced racial prejudice from a white person, it could make a racial minority uncomfortable around anyone of that race due just one incident.
3. One problem a gay student may encounter is a roommate who doesn't accept gay people. In a situation like that, an RA can try to get the two roommates to compromise. Unfortunately, if a person is truly "homophobic," there is little that an RA can do to change that and the RA would have to go to his/her supervisor to possibly arrange a room switch. Another problem a gay student may encounter is bullying. If any student was being bullied, an RA can talk to the students individually and he/she can hold a program raising awareness about bullying. I think that most people who bully others don't understand how powerful those words may be to the person. Hopefully, raising awareness and speaking to them individually would teach them a lesson.
4. One example of people being viewed negatively because of their gender is women being seen as "weak" and incapable of participating in sports with men. Yes, this sounds very old school, but there are still these negative stereotypes that men hold to women. Another example of people being viewed negatively because of their gender is men who are cheerleaders. Most people view cheerleading as a "woman's sport," but it is truly open to both genders. Some men who are on a cheerleading team are viewed as "gay" which isn't always true. Although we are far ahead of the time period when men and women were completely different entities, some people still believe that there is a huge separation between the two genders.
5. Two examples of people being viewed negatively because of their race involve stereotypes. For example, many people stereotype African Americans to be loud and obnoxious. Every single race has people who are loud and obnoxious, not just African Americans. Being loud and

obnoxious isn't even inherited because of race, but unfortunately that stereotype tends to stick with race. Another stereotype is Hispanic women becoming impregnated as teenagers. Just like the issue with African Americans, pregnant teenagers are found in every race. The problem with stereotypes is that races are being singled out for certain characteristics that all races face. One African American being loud and obnoxious or one Hispanic teenager who is pregnant does not mean **everyone** in that race is going to be the same way. Moreover, there are definitely white, Asian, Hispanic, and African American people who fit into those categories as well.

6. One reason people may feel uncomfortable working with people of different sexual orientation is because they think that being a different sexual orientation is a disease and they might catch it or that if someone is viewed with someone of a different sexual orientation, people may believe everyone he/she hangs out with is also "gay" and "lesbian." Although this assumption is extremely wrong and arrogant, some people really believe that statement. Another reason is some people genuinely find people with a different sexual orientation to be "different" and it makes them uncomfortable to be around. The problem with both of these statements is people are extremely uneducated in this field. Once people learn facts and realize that people of different sexual orientation are normal human beings, the stereotypical view on people of different sexual orientations may be changed.
7. People tend to associate themselves with people of similar socioeconomic status because they feel they feel there is a deeper connection with people who have undergone the same upbringing. For example, if two people grew up very wealthy with many luxuries, they may have visited similar places or shared similar experiences. I honestly don't know if I see this on campus very much: I see more people of similar races together, but that doesn't say anything regarding socioeconomic status. Back home, I grew up in Westchester where wealth fluctuated depending on the family. I went to a very small high school with a graduating class of maybe 60 so everyone befriended one another to some extent. I genuinely feel that if people didn't befriend each other it was due to personality conflicts, not socioeconomic status.
8. Some geographic stereotypes include people from Staten Island are "douchebags" and certain parts of Long island are "scummy." Honestly, I don't see many problems where people judge each other based on where they live. The most I've seen is people judging the way a person says "caw-fee" or "coff-fee." If there were people who genuinely judge people on where they are from, it could really bring down a person's self-esteem. Most people receive part of their personality from their hometown and if a person constantly bullies someone for it, individuality may be lost.
9. Cultural relativism is the belief that no race is superior under law, one thing may not be illegal under law if it part of the culture. The idea of cultural relativism is to respect a person's culture. For instance, I recently learned that there is this tribe in West Africa, I believe, where the younger men will suck the elder men's penis as a sign of respect. Under American law, that can be considered illegal under pedophilia. However, since it is normal under cultural circumstances, it is acceptable.
10. Two challenges a person with disabilities will face is eating in dining halls and getting to class. The reason I thought of those challenges is because one of my suitemates was on crutches for about two months and struggled with both eating in the dining halls and going to class because no one gave her keys to use any of the elevators. Other disabilities that I've seen on campus

include some kids who become incapable of taking notes or have trouble doing daily activities to get through the day because of broken bones. The list of disabilities a person may go through can go on and all face different challenges. As an RA, the most important thing you can do for those residents is to introduce resources and information to help ease the process.