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Reflections on Stories of Otherness

During the interview process, I had the opportunity to really listen to the stories of the people I was interviewing. I don’t think I would have had a conversation about otherness with these people if it weren’t for this project. It gave me the chance to peer deeper into the experience of a Vanderbilt student, but it also gave me a chance to peer deeper into the individuals I interviewed. Some of the people interviewed were my friends, so it was a chance to get to know them through a different platform. One person, P.B., is a stranger to me, but I am grateful for the experience to encounter her. They each had a unique perspective to share, yet there were echoes of similar struggles among them. The interviewing process made me feel that I was not alone in my experiences as a Korean-American.

The project has yet to succeed in creating an online space in which people can share their experiences and exchange ideas. I plan to share the content on the blog through social media to promote this exchange. In addition, I hope to continue this project in the future by interviewing more Vanderbilt students, and perhaps even members of the Vanderbilt faculty.

I believe that giving each of the individuals interviewed an occasion to reflect on their experiences gave them the power to read deeper. For instance, I asked Miriam if she gained anything positive from her marginalization. She replied that there is a stronger sense of identity and solidarity when there is adversity.