

Affirmative Decision Essay

What would our world be like if everyone is treated equally no matter the color of his or her skin? This seems to be the focus of our generation. We want to create equal opportunities regardless of gender or race. Affirmative action refers to government policies that improve employment or educational opportunities for minority group members and for women.

(1) This all started in 1961 with President Kennedy using the term “affirmative action” in an Executive Order that directed government contractors to take “affirmative action”, to ensure that hiring and employment practices are free of racial bias. Initially, Affirmative Action focused on giving employment and education opportunities for African Americans, outlawing school segregation and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. But, over the years, this policy has steadily increased college admission enrollment rates for both African American and Latino students.

(2) This process remains a very controversial topic. Affirmative Action is believed to ensure diversity in schools and workplaces creating tolerant communities when exposing people to different cultures and ideas. This, however, does not necessarily mean diverse opinions. People of the same race may not all have the same opinion or culture. (3) Affirmative action is also used to try and give disadvantaged people coming from areas without many opportunities to be able to have an equal chance as others that are privileged. While this may be true, these students often are not ready for the task. Not only does this hold back universities and companies but also lower the student/workers’ self-esteem. (2) In addition, research shows that the average weekly salary for Black men and women are around 80% less than the average salary for White men and women. It is believed that these wage discriminations will carry on without affirmative action in place. In spite of this, others still argue that racial discrimination has ceased in the 21st century but minorities are dragging the issue on. These individuals claim that Blacks should not have superior treatment in the eyes of the government.

(4) To put this in perspective, four Northwood High School students were interviewed about whether they thought college admissions should take race into consideration. These individuals were of different races and gave answers supporting both sides of the issue. Two of those students Anh- Thi Le, and Raiye Seyoum both believe that Affirmative action is not fair. They argue that if a person works harder, they deserve better than a person that is accepted for their race. Calvin Stinson supports race-neutral policies. Donovan Harvey, on the other hand, believes that these policies do not sound fair. He says that race shouldn’t be disregarded with high education like it shouldn’t be with K-12 education either. These students all have different opinions due to their past experiences, race, and financial situations.

As can be seen, Affirmative Decision is a very controversial issue. Affirmative Action gives opportunities to minority members but also bases decisions on races, sex, and other factors. There are pros and cons to the issue but no side seems to outweigh the other. Therefore, the appropriateness of affirmative action is dealt with differently with every case.

Sources:

1. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/affirmative-action-overview.aspx>
2. <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~jesan201/classweb/arguments.html>
3. https://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=43448
4. <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2015/12/23/458466601/what-is-fair-high-school-students-talk-about-affirmative-action>