

Affirmative Action

Starting in 1961, colleges, businesses, and the government began to implement affirmative action, which helped to end any and all acts of discrimination. It ensured that everyone would have access to the same opportunities. As expected, this idea has received lots of criticism for promoting racism instead of ending it. For example, in 2016, Abigail Fisher claimed in a legal case that the University of Texas denied her entry to the school based on her race: white. Because of affirmative action, arguably less qualified students than her were accepted to U.T. (University of Texas) in order to maintain diversity on campus. She argued that this has promoted discrimination which is bad. However, affirmative action is necessary to diversify educational and workplace environments, and allows us to create a brighter future. One where everyone is given equal opportunities to achieve their dreams.

To begin, the impact of affirmative action on diversity is astounding. Since its inception, it has dramatically increased the enrollment of minorities who come from a lower income family. Affirmative action has made schools more representative of their surrounding communities, allowing students to experience a school environment that correlates with the real world. Making schools more like the real world will help students better understand activities happening all around them. In the past, when affirmative action was banned in California, for instance, there was an immediate drop in minority students of black and hispanic races enrolling into colleges such as U.C.L.A. and U.C. Berkeley the following year. At both schools, enrollment dropped about 20% the following year. In Texas, there was a 36% drop in African American enrollment and a 22% drop in Hispanic enrollment after it banned affirmative action. With affirmative action, however, we can help students from multiple racial backgrounds to achieve better living conditions. In fact, graduates who have benefited from affirmative action have received better jobs and earned more money. With a better life, these graduates can make a significant difference in our society by reaching high level business and government positions. There they can exert their influence to diversify the world's thoughts and opinions. Diversity forces us to consider an array of ideas, allowing us to solve more complex issues. People will become more tolerant of others from different backgrounds, thereby ending discrimination.

Overall, affirmative action is a necessity for our future. It promotes diversity, a crucial component in gaining more knowledge and tolerance for others. With diversity, we can come to expect a nation that is much more tolerant, knowledgeable, and competitive than others around her. We will become a better nation by promoting a future where there is equal access to opportunities. Affirmative action is a necessary step in helping us achieve a better future.

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