



MVYLI Multicultural Essay Contest Award Winner

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Diversity is different types of people, cultures and also knowledge of the way different people are. Diversity of people on Martha's Vineyard is important to me and to the island because you can learn from other people from different places. I have done a few things to support, honor, and celebrate the diversity on Martha's Vineyard and I could do more.

Diversity on Martha's Vineyard is important to me because if there weren't any other Brazilian people I would feel lonely. Imagine being the only person from another country on the Island. You would feel isolated. Diversity is also important on Martha's Vineyard because of all the different food and cultures. Going to different restaurants you can learn about different cultures. It's important to people because this island is isolated and we don't have access to diversity like big cities so we have different restaurants that we can learn from. That is why diversity is important to Martha's Vineyard.

Diversity on Martha's Vineyard is important to me because of the Brazilian community that I am part of. I am bilingual and I have people who speak both of my languages to talk to. Diversity of food on Martha's Vineyard is important to me because I am used to eating Brazilian food. Also others can learn about our Brazilian food. In addition I have friends from another country that I learn new things from. We can learn new cultures and increase our global knowledge. Diversity makes me learn new things.

Some things I have done to support, honor and celebrate diversity on Martha's Vineyard are maintain my Portuguese language and share my culture at school. For example, I maintain my Portuguese by talking to my parents at home so I will never forget it. Another thing I did was a report about schools in Brazil and shared it with the class. I talked about my culture, so my classmates learned about it. Finally I brought "Jaca" to school so all my friends and teachers could try some. Jaca is Jackfruit - a common fruit in Brazil. My classmates and teachers got to learn about the fruits I used to eat in Brazil.

Some things I could do to support, honor, and celebrate diversity on Martha's Vineyard are teach people Portuguese, make the schools' cafeterias more diverse, and learn about other people. To teach people Portuguese I could start by teaching my friends. I could help my brothers read and write in Portuguese. To help the cafeterias I could talk to them about what I ate in Brazil - rice and beans everyday. It would be so easy if our school cafeterias could make it everyday. I can do these things to help celebrate diversity in our schools.

Diversity is important to Martha's Vineyard because you learn new cultures. Diversity is important to me because I learn from others. Learning helps bring everyone together and learn from each other.