



Why Is Diversity on My Island Important To Me?

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Since the beginning of time, ancestors have had amazing, anonymous journeys, climbing rugged snow capped mountain ranges, sailing oceans enriched with hope and new beginnings, traveled thousands of miles unaware that their incredible treks around the world might have just been the cause of your existence. People have originated from so many different cultures and nations for so many entirely different reasons. Having people from different nationalities is like having a piece of a puzzle that fits together – from somewhere far and interesting in the world, and it's amazing that they decided to become part of Martha's Vineyard. Looking further into the elements of diverse nationalities it seems even more amazing and incredible that we get to share our tiny island with nations around the world.

The diverse nationalities of people on Martha's Vineyard are important to me for many reasons. First, it is like having your own tiny world inside a small radius. If you're not much of a traveler don't worry! You can witness the Scottish Society march in their kilts and tartans in our annual parades, ride by the Portuguese American Club, stop by at Stina's, or just look, anywhere you are, you'll notice there is always a little bit of a different culture.

Furthermore, I think the diverse nationalities of people on the island is important because I think it is important to hold on to your heritages, and different nationalities, yours and others that help us keep in touch from where we originally came from. I think it is important to stay in touch with your roots because it's good for you to know who you are. On my mom's side I'm French and Dutch, on my dad's I'm Irish. I think that's pretty amazing that my ancestors came all the way from a different continent and came to America.

It's not a different nation but I came from California on the other side of the country where as most of the people I know were born and raised here, but as soon as we arrived everybody was warm and welcoming and I, as well as my family adapted quickly to make Martha's Vineyard our awesome home. Having different nationalities expands our own culture in the present, creates a different culture for the future, and honors the cultures in the past.

Also I think the diverse nationalities of people on the island is important because it shows all generations that they could decide to live where they choose, given the right amount of effort. Many islanders have worked hard so they can live here, people who before could have lived half way around the world. It shows that nothing is impossible. So on United Nations Day all of the Martha's Vineyard Schools celebrate the different nationalities and guest speakers share their amazing stories of their travels to other countries and to America and eventually to Martha's Vineyard. The different nationalities is inspiration for kids to know that traveling to amazing places is never not an option if you work hard. Something that could honor the diverse nationalities of Martha's Vineyard would be a Martha's Vineyard School's United Nations Potluck. All the students in each school could get together and make a recipe from their heritage or nationality to honor their ancestors nationality or their own. The best place to teach other people about their heritage or nationality who they are, and respecting other heritages, is with kids who could carry the knowledge on for generations. By having a potluck students could explore other cultures through one of the most iconic characteristics of a nation, food. For example, French food, escargot, croissants, and other cuisines that France is known for is a big part of their country. As well as the food students and their families could bring in flags or something that they think will well represent their heritage and help them keep in touch with their ancestors. Lastly, I learned a lot from writing this essay the importance of diverse nationalities to others and the importance of it, to myself. Having a different nationality should be something you're proud of and embrace, if we could all do that, the world could become an even more beautiful place.

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