

Affirmative Action at MIT

I think the article that we used for the discussion was poorly written and rehashed the same misinformed ideas of what affirmative action really does at MIT or any other institution of higher learning. Many people seem to think that it is just giving a leg up to people simply because of the way they look ignoring the fact that whether or not you were admitted as a result of affirmative action, you had to at least be a strong student where you came from. People who have never actively faced discrimination or rejection up until the point of college admission are always quick to choose affirmative action as the cause of them not getting what they want. They blatantly ignore the history of gender and race relations in this country and feel that things at this moment in time are equal and that everyone has equal opportunity to achieve.

I've commonly heard the argument that everyone has been given the same opportunities, so those who don't succeed are responsible for their own failures, when in fact people aren't given the same opportunities so they often need some help to ensure that they do succeed. As it pertains to MIT, I find it insulting that it is automatically assumed that I was admitted on the basis that I had to do less work to get to the same position because of the genetics that I did not choose. It seemed as though he thought it unrealistic that the woman and minority populations at MIT are not capable of the same as white and Asian males. The claim in the article that many women on campus question their place on this campus is a result of people similar to the author and other students on campus who make them feel as though they are less capable or that there is no way for the gender ratio on campus to be equal because certain groups are inherently inferior.

I think the class discussion went as I expected because I've had to deal with people who have expressed the same views as the author when I got accepted into MIT. It seemed that many people in the class didn't expect someone to actually say certain things to their peers but everyone has their own opinions however strong on certain issues.

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