

## **My Culture Paper**

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As an African American woman who identifies as Christian. Growing up in Houston, Texas, I have experienced firsthand the value that religion and spirituality hold in the African American community. As a Christian, my faith provides me with a sense of purpose, community, and hope, which has been especially important in navigating the challenges that come with being a black woman in America. However, being African American and female also comes with its own set of cultural complexities, shaped by both race and gender. In this essay, I will explore my cultural identity in terms of three areas: the historical complexities of African American women, the role of Christianity in African American history, and the concept of reverse racism.

### **Identity**

As an African American, my cultural identity is shaped by my experiences, beliefs, and values. It encompasses my racial and ethnic background, my gender identity, my religious beliefs, and my geographic location. African American culture has a rich history that is shaped by the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and systemic racism. This history has influenced the way African Americans navigate the world and has contributed to the development of our cultural identity.

In my original definition of cultural identity, I accurately portrayed it as a complex and multifaceted concept that reflects an individual's experiences, beliefs, and values. I also recognized that my experiences as an African American Christian woman are shaped by my personal beliefs, geographic location, and socioeconomic status. However, I did not elaborate on the impact of historical events such as slavery and Jim Crow laws on African American culture, which have contributed significantly to our cultural identity.

### **Race and Racism**

Racism is a systemic issue that is characterized by power dynamics. It involves the institutional and societal advantages that white people have historically enjoyed and the disadvantages that people of color have faced. The concept of reverse racism is a myth that ignores these power dynamics and fails to address systemic racism.

In my initial definition of racism, I accurately portrayed it as a systemic issue characterized by power dynamics. However, I misunderstood the concept of reverse racism. I used to believe that people of color could be racist against white people, but I now understand that racism is a systemic issue that involves power dynamics, and reverse racism is a myth that fails to recognize these power dynamics (aclrc, n.d.).

Regarding my personal experiences with reverse racism, I have never experienced it. As an African American Christian woman, I have faced racial and gender-based discrimination and prejudice, but I do not have the institutional power to enforce discriminatory practices or create systemic disadvantages for white people. The concept of reverse racism is often used to deflect attention from the real issues of systemic racism that continue to impact people of color in our society.

### **Religion and Spirituality**

Religion and spirituality play a significant role in African American culture, and Christianity has played a significant role in African American history. The black church has served as a space for political and social organization, and its emphasis on social justice and community service has contributed significantly to African American culture.

In my initial definition of religion and spirituality, I accurately portrayed the importance of Christianity in African American culture and its role in social and political organization. However, I did not elaborate on the impact of religion and spirituality on my personal life as an

African American Christian woman. For me, Christianity provides a sense of purpose, community, and hope, especially in the face of the challenges that come with being a black woman in America.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, cultural identity is a complex and multifaceted concept that reflects an individual's experiences, beliefs, and values. Racism is a systemic issue characterized by power dynamics, and reverse racism is a myth that fails to address systemic racism. Religion and spirituality play a significant role in African American culture, and Christianity has played a vital role in African American history. As an African American Christian woman, my cultural identity is shaped by my experiences as a person of color and as a woman, my religious beliefs, and my geographic location.

## References

aclrc. (n.d.). *Myth of Reverse Racism*. Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://www.aclrc.com/myth-of-reverse-racism>

