

*Mallory*

*21, White, Female*

*Narrative Prompts:*

1. What culture, ethnicity, and/or race do you identify with?

I just think of myself as white, I don't really identify with anything else.

2. How do your culture, ethnicity, and/or race impact your day-to-day life?

I don't really ever think about my culture, ethnicity, or race since I don't really identify with it at all. Maybe if I was placed in another country, or a part of this country that would make me a minority then I would be more conscious of it, but based on being here and where I live at home it never really crosses my mind. So even though I don't think about it on a day-to-day basis, I see it sometimes when I am placed in different situations. Such as when we visited the Braddock Hills Elementary school and I felt as if I had a very different upbringing from the students who went to this school in various ways. For one, the majority of these students were African American, and I am White, their culture is also very different from mine when hearing lots of them grow up with violence, poverty, jail, absent parents, and drug abuse as being familiar to them, when none of those things are a part of my life. Also, we talk about these sorts of things in my ceramics class sometimes with the poverty in Philadelphia and how even though I grew up only 40 minutes away, my life was entirely different. My culture was mainly influenced by my family I would say. They are the group I identify with, and who I have grown up with while I developed my ideas on life and my own sense of self so talking to them while being away at school, or getting to see them when I am home is when I would say I am truly involved with my culture.

3. Have you ever had a moment when you were “jammed” by someone’s presumption of your cultural/ethnic/racial background? If so, can you describe what happened and how it made you feel?

I don’t really think I have ever had a moment like this. I think the closest thing that I have had happen to me that is similar to this type of thing would be when I went to Italy and all of the Italian guys who would come up to me and my friends would say things to us that were American stereotypes and things that they had picked up from watching TV or movies, and thought were the ways we all lived our daily lives, when in reality that just isn’t true, but they really had no idea about that. So it wasn’t so much about how I actually live my life, but instead it was about how they thought I did.

4. How do you think your cultural/ethnic/racial identity will or will not impact your teaching?

I think that it may make an impact when I am first presented to my students because I may not have the same sorts of experiences that they do, but I don’t want that to be something that holds me back. I would like to think that I will try to learn about how my cultural, ethnicity, and race are different from theirs, and what those differences have changed in the ways we have gone about our lives and gone through different situations, and how we would handle situations now. I think that if I were placed even in my own high school, which is obviously the area I grew up in, I would still have students who were different from me, maybe less so than another school, but it would still happen, but I think having diversity within a class or a school is a great thing and will help myself and the students learn more about each other and the world.