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Ethnic Families

"A stereotype becomes a stereotype when a significant percentage of the population appears to conform it." – Kelly Armstrong

Being an Asian myself, I have heard my fair share of stereotypes about my own kind. Even though I don't believe in several of the stereotypes about Asians, there are still a few of them that I do consider to be true. I believe the stereotype about how every Asian has had some experience with anime or manga. I believe that this is a fair assumption because since I was a child, up until today, I have never met any Asian person who hasn't had any experience with anime or manga. I have yet to meet any Asian who doesn't know what either one of these are in order to contradict this stereotype.

Another stereotype that I believed in was those who are Latino are considered to be a Mexican. I always hear someone who is Mexican use the word Latino; therefore I believed that whoever was Latino was also Mexican. This isn't a fair assumption since Mexico isn't the only country with people that speak Spanish. Before I wrote this essay, I didn't know that my stereotype was, indeed, wrong. After some research, I found out that Latinos are people of Latin-American or Spanish-speaking descent; proving that my assumption was incorrect about all Latinos being Mexican.

The third stereotype I have is about Native Americans having long hair. Whether in movies, books, or real life, I have watched and witnessed how long they would grow out their hair. I have seen some Native American girls with long hair that suddenly decide to cut it short. However, for a certain amount of time, they did grow it out extensively long. There are some Native American males that grow out their hair very long as well. I have noticed that not all of the males grow their hair excessively long as others. Hence, it shows that this stereotype isn't necessarily true.

The last stereotype that I have is that African Americans always have either an afro or corn braids for their hairstyle. The African Americans I have met either had one or the other hairstyle. This stereotype I have isn't a fair assumption since I don't know a lot of African Americans. An example of someone who doesn't have either one of these hairstyles is Martin Luther King Jr. His haircut was short and simple compared to the afros and corn braids. Thus, with Martin Luther King Jr. as my example, this stereotype has been contradicted; proving that not all stereotypes about different ethnicities are true.