

Discussion Questions for March 27

There are no readings for today's class; instead you should think through the following questions.

*Background:*

Today I'm going to ask you various questions about affirmative action as it relates to Notre Dame.

*Questions:*

1. One of the big motivations for affirmative action is that diversity has various benefits. Notre Dame's student body is not as diverse as the US population as a whole when it comes to race, ethnicity, religion, age and socio-economic status. How has this impacted your experience at Notre Dame, both in and out of class? In what ways would it be better or worse to have a more diverse group of students?
2. How has the relative lack of diversity impacted our class in particular; how do you think things would have gone differently if our class was more diverse?
3. Do you think Notre Dame should practice affirmative action? And if so, in what ways? Here are some things to consider: there are different ways of practicing it, e.g. encouraging certain groups to apply vs. giving applications from certain groups a slight edge. There are different groups to which it could be applied to, e.g. students, faculty, etc. There are different sorts of affirmative action that could be performed: we could pay attention to race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, geographical background, political leanings, etc.