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Cultural America: Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

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Cultural America: Melting Pot or Salad Bowl?

The American society as we know it is a farm for countries all over the world; from the day of its discovery to the birth of a nation, America has always been a home for foreign travelers. What initially began as a popular ground for European settlers has turned into a rainbow collection of global marvels. Modern day United States now holds over 330 million men, women and children of all races, ethnicities and nationalities. But in a country so diverse, what could be the long-term effects of such exposure? Is it possible that new cultures will arise, encapsulating features of different cultures into one? Will different cultural groups clash? Will some cultures abandon some of their traditions in favor of others?

With the existence of many new cultures comes the trouble of new social dilemmas: the question about whether this country is a melting pot or salad bowl has split the nation down the middle, and the rise and abandonment of new cultures. With many new issues surrounding culture, it is important to take the issue on one step at a time. In this paper, I will discuss the effects of cross culture in the United States. I will go in-dept about whether so many different cultures creates a nation that is a melting pot or salad bowl, and how these cultures affect the existence of other cultures. I will also offer some solutions to the issue such as What defines culture? Is it the music that is played at a Latin backyard party? Could it be the clothes worn during Eid? How about the food that is served during Thanksgiving? Culture can be so much more than just a person's visual attributes. Culture is also influenced by socialization, the process by which a group of people adopt a lifestyle through socializing (Gallagher 2).

Through socialization, people within a culture can encompass shared behavioral and cognitive personalities. We see this similar way of thinking all throughout human history. This crayon-box country is the epitome of diversity. It has and still is a place for new revivals for

people all around the world. In between the cultural barriers that is the salad bowl and the mixed unity of a melting pot sits cultural issues. The introduction of many cultures can be beneficial but also raise many issues in today's world. With all these cultures at our glance, is the United States a melting pot or a salad bowl? What about the new cultures that arise as a result of cross-cultural experiences? Or how about the hatred and arguments that come about because of too much culture clashing. All in all, these problems are very real in the U.S., and they have been in our society for generations. But they can be dealt with. Exploring outside of one's own comfort zone can be a solution to this issue.

Annotated Bibliography

America, a Melting Pot? - National Writing Project. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<https://writingourfuture.nwp.org/americancreed/responses/948-america-a-melting-pot>

This source was great for my paper. It's material covered the titular idea for the final. It included ideas about what a melting pot is and what evidence in the United States made it so. It also gave examples from real life people about how the melting pot idea is still relevant in today's world. These quotes and life stories were very helpful.

History.com Editors. (2018, December 21). U.S. Immigration Timeline. Retrieved from

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/immigration-united-states-timeline>

This article was a timeline of the immigration movement in the United States. From the creation of America to the modern world, it lists crucial dates in the history of our country's immigration wave. I needed this information to show what year the immigration boom occurred. This was helping for supporting both the melting pot and salad bowl idea. This information was used as background information for my paper.

Home. (2020, July 30). Retrieved from

<http://www.aeb.org/search/result-item/53-breakfast-trends/564-new-york-city-melting-pot>

This article was useful in that it provided more information about the idea of a melting pot. Definitions, evidence, stories. I used this to gain some leverage over the salad bowl theory because at one point there seemed to be an overwhelming amount of evidence stacked

against the melting pot. Regardless, this article was very helpful for my body paragraphs. I also included some as my background information.

KKK founded. (2010, March 04). Retrieved from

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kkk-founded>.

This article may seem irrelevant to this assignment, but it did play a good part. The information I gathered about the KKK was useful in supporting the idea that cross-culture experience doesn't always end well. They sometimes end in bad things. The KKK is just one example, and so this article provided information on their history. This information was great for my argument.

Lippard, Gallagher, Cameron, Charles. "Being Brown in Dixie: Race, Ethnicity, and Latino Immigration in the New South." *FirstForumPress*, 2011, www.rienner.com/uploads/4cdadeb324271.pdf.

This article was about the history of immigrants in the United States. I needed a lot of history for my background information for this paper. It helps the reader understand just how significant culture and race were in this country. Therefore, this article gave information about race, ethnicity and nationality. I needed this to also help define the lines of a melting pot.

Lykins.67. (2020, February 26). The Melting Pot: New York City. Retrieved from

<https://u.osu.edu/introhumanitiesonline/2020/02/24/the-melting-pot-new-york-city/>

This article aided in the argument that the United States is a melting pot. Though there was no hard evidence like the previous articles, this one gave opinions on the matter. These ideas were just as helpful. It discussed the idea of how we all celebrate the same national holidays. But it also helped with the salad bowl theory.

Massey, Douglas S. “The New Immigration and Ethnicity in the United

States.” *Population and Development Review*, vol. 21, no. 3, 1995, pp.

631–652. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2137753. Accessed 6 Mar. 2021.

This article discussed the immigration pattern in the United States. It went in-depth about its history and how it applies to today’s manner. Also, it discussed how culture is changing in the world. The term is becoming more loose with the younger generations. All of this information was useful for my background information and for my own cross-cultural experience.

Robinson, A. (n.d.). Race vs. Ethnicity vs. Nationality: All You Need to Know. Retrieved

from <https://blog.prepscholar.com/race-vs-ethnicity-vs-nationality>

This article discussed what the title suggested. Race, ethnicity and nationality were all defined in great lengths. This information was useful for my background information. Author Robinson included pictures and ideas about that these social constructs means in society. How their roles influence our world and way of thinking.

What Is Culture? - Introduction to Sociology 2e. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<https://openstax.org/books/introduction-sociology-2e/pages/3-1-what-is-culture>

This article may perhaps be the most useful for this assignment. It gave an in-depth analysis about culture in our society. It included many contexts about culture. It gave real life examples about our national and local culture as well as how they differ from others. This information was useful for the entirety of my paper.

Zimmermann, K. A. (2017, July 13). What Is Culture? Retrieved from

<http://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html>

Just like the previous article, this one also defined what culture is. It gave examples of different types of culture and how it is changing through the times. Some of the examples given were actually new to me. The reason why I needed to two articles about the same topic was so that I could verify this information. It's always good to have a supporting article.