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The Note

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Classroom Dynamics - Being a Brown Film Major

By J. Abraham Montes

It should come as no surprise that studying film at the university is like a microcosm of the broader film industry, meaning, people of culture are severely underrepresented in this field. But what really beats me down some days and makes me question whether or not I chose the right path is when I feel excluded, like I don't belong. It's not particularly motivating when you're one of the only brown people in your class. Out of 19 students in my class, there are 2 Black students, and 1 other Latino student. Our professor is also white. As a matter of fact, all the faculty and staff in this department are white. Although, it may not even be about the pigmentation of our skin, but more of a lack of perspective and understanding. Out of all my classmates I am *the* only person pursuing a degree in Ethnic Studies. As aspiring artists going into an industry that is rot with dangerous stereotypes, sexual assault, and the stealing of stories, then we must talk seriously about racial identities and promote communication across racial and ethnic divides. Thus, when my white colleagues can care less about my Queer, Latino, Indigenous characters/stories I feel as if they will become one more perpetrator to the problem that is misrepresentation of people of culture in the media.