J. Paulo G. Llanes
English 100 AK
Caroline Prieto
April 17, 2011
Pinoy Capital
Essay # 3

Serramanila, Fogtown, DC, 650 and etc all represents Daly City. To some it is haven or a sanctuary to start a new life. It is the suburb south of San Francisco where thousands of Filipinos live. Only in this town is where you can find all sorts of dialects Filipinos speak. This is also the only town that replicates the lifestyle in the Philippines fused with somehow worst adversities, prosperity, nostalgia and new beginnings type of stories. But it seems like Filipinos with 100% positive attitude is hard to find here. Lilia Trinos was married at a very young age, she migrated to United States at age of twenty four and experienced plenty of hardships just like other Filipinos. However, her attitude living in America was different from the rest of the Pinoys. [Lilia saw through to colonial mentality of Filipinos here in Daly City, she took advantage of American programs that helped boost her job experience, she also experienced culture shocked that created a conflict raising her children and lastly at her age, she is still in the process of achieving her own American Dream.]

Lilia sought for fairness when she first experienced racism and joined other groups to boost her job performance. Ms. Trinos graduated from Lyceum University in the Philippines with a degree in Foreign affairs and speaks descent English so when she applied for her first job here in the U.S. she realized she was more qualified for the job than the other candidates she told me “of course you knew what color she was… I complained to EEOC [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission] *laughed”.*  Though there have been many Filipino movements against racism Vergara and E. San Juan never mentioned any Filipinos as an individual who benefited thoroughly with the movement well because even then it still exist today it’s just more subtle now. Lilia demonstrated confronting racism by complaining to EOCC that she is not going to deal with this unfairness by just sitting down. It seems her compliance against racism at her first job made a powerful impact in her mentality. Her first experienced in racism boost up her self-esteem and confidence resulting a different view on workforce in the United States. This experience made her feel empower and instead of feeling inferior she feels that she have sense of worth. Lilia is a complainer she even said to herself, but it is her necessary complains is what made her to enjoy working in the United States.

 With Lilia’s new attitude towards the workforce she joined civic and community organization that helped her figure out more of her rights unlike other Filipinos. After she laughed about being a complainer she also mentioned that “I joined a lot of communities and civic organization that helped me indirectly”. As a slight contrast to Vergara’s interview my interviewee educated herself by join several of organizations. Lilia learned to be prepare in any situation where racism is being practiced on her. Ms. Trinos learned how to work the system and how to use the law against any mistreatment at work. With this experience Lilia felt more comfortable and almost as if her life matches a typical American life. The opposite of Vergara’s interviewee, *insert name of vergara’s interviewee “insert sad quote”.* To feel inferior could be deliberating overtime chirping away someone’s spirit. For some reasons Filipino are not taught how to address those who perpetrate racist acts against them, whether covert or overt. Majority Filipino immigrants just don’t say anything, or they just stand there flabbergasted to know anti-colored racism still is prevalent. Filipino immigrants have to address racist act immediately but unfortunately they just let it go. Lilia did want to be a victim just like other Filipinos who stayed quiet so she sought for groups that aided her to feel free from any racism.

One conflict Lilia had hard time dealing with is raising her children with two different cultures clashing while trying her best to raised them the most Filipino way as possible. Lilia told me when her children was growing they started questioning her “why do we have to be back in this time? Why do we have to kiss their hands? Why do we have to call everyone aunties and uncles?”. The answer to these questions all have to do with the Filipino culture itself that parents want to instill with their kids. The respect of one another in the Filipino culture is almost at the same level as respecting family member. Filipino culture is very family oriented that it extends out the community. As to American way of raising children it is more loose because the main philosophy focuses on individuality and independence. This was an issue in Lilia’s family because of the different values her children is being exposed to and she cannot control the American influence on them. Just like when one of her children told her “I want to move out soon after 18”. In Filipino culture parent’s would rather have their kids stay with them as long as they want. It is part Filipinos being family oriented, family comes first it is the support, but that is not the trend of Americans children hitting adulthood. Another difficulty she experienced raising her kids was maintain of what’s left Filipinoness her kids have, she said “when I talk to them in tagalong, they respond in English”. Lilia tried her best to raise her children to be Filipino. She spoke to them in Tagalog, fed them Filipino food, taught them respect, and told them stories about scarification of their families and to always be thankful. Lilia realized she can only do so much to raise them like a real Filipino children. As they mature up on their college years she realized that “they eat Filipino food, go to family functions and have fun with families, calls all adults I’m closed to Titas and Titos”. Lilia’s children grew up with Filipino culture instilled on them. Even though her children lost the language and wanted to move out at a young age, it seems like her children carried many of Filipino traits throughout their life despite any American influence from friends, media, environment, and or politics.