



Asian American Coalition for Education

Media Briefing

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the Upcoming U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on SFFA v Harvard/UNC

June 5, 2023

1. Why do you support the lawsuits by Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)?

As a racial group discriminated against in the United States, Asian Americans have been fighting against racism in college admissions for decades. We filed civil-rights complaints against Harvard and other Ivy League colleges from 1988 to 2016, and we have led grassroots movements against the attempts to restore affirmative actions in California and Washington from 2014 to 2020.

We are grateful to the many scholars who have helped expose this social injustice and the many leaders who directly help our fight, including Mr. Ward Connerly and Mr. Edward Blum. We support SFFA because it represents Asian American students and parents. SFFA is helping us fight the anti-Asian discrimination at Harvard, UNC and many selective colleges in 41 states that still use race in their admissions process.

2. What is the evidence of anti-Asian discrimination in Harvard and UNC?

Our evidence, as revealed by Students for Fair Admissions, includes:

- **De facto racial quotas:** Harvard uses “ethnic stats” and other tools to manipulate the process so that it essentially achieves the same racial balance year after year.
- **Highest admission standards:** Asian American applicants have the lowest admission rate in every academic bracket.
- **Harvard:** Professor Peter Arcidiacono’s model shows that a male Asian American applicant with a **25%** chance of admission would see his odds rising to **35%** if he were white, **75%** if he were Hispanic, and **95%** if he were African American.

- **UNC:** Professor Arcidiacono's model shows a male applicant from North Carolina would have a **25%** chance of getting into UNC if he were Asian American, a **67%** chance if he were Hispanic and **88%** chance if he were African American.
- **Racial stereotypes:** Despite exceptional credentials on all objective measures, Asian American applicants are consistently rated the lowest by Harvard's **personal ratings**, which crudely categorize them as unlikeable, indistinguishable, and weak in grit, leadership and risk-taking.

The discrimination correlates with evidence documented by Daniel Gordon (2007), Thomas Espenshade (2009), Ron Unz (2012), former Ivy League college admission officers Sara Harberson (2015) and Michele Hernandez (2016), and civil rights complaints filed by Asian American students in recent years.

3. What is wrong with using race in college admissions?

Race-based admissions unjustly creates unbearable study loads and stress on Asian American students, possibly a major cause of depression, anxiety and other psychological suffering among some Asian American youths.

It undermines trust in American institutions and attack Asian American identities. Many Asian American applicants have to hide their racial identity to get admitted by America's selective colleges, and they are treated as second-class citizens.

It creates racial barriers between Asian Americans and other racial groups.

Finally, it undermines the American meritocracy, exacerbates our nation's STEM talent shortage, and jeopardizes economic prosperity.

4. Why not support affirmative action that will enhance the racial diversity in higher education?

First, colleges should value diversity of ideas rather than diversity of skin color.

Second, Asian American would like to see more blacks and Hispanics admitted to colleges.

But the crux of affirmative action is that politicians use Asian Americans as a scapegoat to hide their failure to provide quality K-12 education to Black and Hispanic children, the real root cause behind the lack of racial diversity in higher education.

We challenge the media to hold those politicians accountable for their failure in K-12 education and not support the racist policy in college admissions.

5. Hasn't affirmative action helped minorities?

Initiated through Executive Order 10925 by President John F. Kennedy on March 6, 1961, Affirmative Action includes a provision that government contractors "take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin."

The use of race in college admissions actually betrays Affirmative Action's original intent.

Six decades after its inception, affirmative action proves to be a policy failure. In 2017, the *New York Times* reported, "Even with affirmative action, blacks and Hispanics are more underrepresented at top colleges than 35 years ago."

Affirmative action favors new immigrants from Africa, upper-class and middle-class Black and Hispanic families, at the expense of poor Asian and white families. Affirmative action also leads to low graduation rates and mismatch issues among those who were inadequately prepared for college.

6. Do two-thirds of Asian Americans support affirmative action?

That data came from an unscientific survey ("Views of a Diverse Electorate: Opinion of California Registered Voters" in 2014) that used a misleading question: "Do you favor or oppose affirmative action programs designed to help black, women, and other minorities get better jobs and education?"

Without knowing Asian American applicants are actually discriminated against by affirmative action, 69.1% Asian American favored affirmative action in this biased survey.

In comparison, in 2019 and 2022 using scientific methods and an objective question: "Should race or ethnicity be a major, minor or not a factor in college admissions decision?"

The Pew Research Center consistently found: "Majorities across racial and ethnic groups say colleges should not consider race in admission."

- Total: 73% in 2019 and 74% in 2022
- Asian: 58% in 2019 and 63% in 2022
- Black: 62% in 2019 and 59% in 2022
- Hispanic: 65% in 2019 and 68% in 2022
- White: 78% in 2019 and 79% in 2022

Responsible media should only use surveys conducted by respected organizations using scientific methods, such as the Pew Research Center.

7. Do you think using race in college admissions is constitutional?

No! Using race in college admissions violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Title VI of 1964 Civil Rights Act which bans racial discrimination in any institution receiving federal funding.

8. What is your goal for the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court Ruling?

Asian American communities ask the U.S. Supreme Court to eliminate the use of race in college admissions, end anti-Asian discrimination and safeguard equal education rights for ALL Americans! It's time to build the color-blind society that Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned, and uplift those in need regardless of race or ethnicity!