

The “diversity bargain” is the name that Warikoo has given to the beliefs that white students have towards affirmative action. Affirmative action is when schools will specifically admit students from marginalized groups in hopes to benefit these groups and to combat discrimination. Warikoo found that a majority of the white students believe that affirmative action is okay, but only if the students of color are able to provide something for the white students or the schools. For example, many of these students believe that the students of color should be admitted to the school simply because they would be providing and creating a more “diverse” culture. Other students are okay with affirmative action if the students of color are a part of a sports team or other school related association. This is how the diversity bargain was created; the schools admit students of color, and the students of color provide the school with “something.” I do believe that this is a bargain in the sense that both parties, white students/schools and students of color, are both expected to offer something. However, I do not believe that it is a fair bargain. Students of color, just like white students, are at school to learn. It should not also be their job or an expectation to “provide” the students or the school anything more than they would expect from white students. It is not the job of a student of color to “teach” or immerse another student into a culture and to teach diversity. One thing I have noticed in reading this book is how selfish people are. For example, the white students believe that students of color should be admitted, but only if they themselves are able to gain from it. In short, while the diversity bargain may be a “bargain,” the expectations placed on students of color are not fair and just.