

## DIVERSITY IS BENEFICIAL

You represent the pro-diversity perspective. Your position is, "*Diversity is beneficial in many ways and should be encouraged in our society.*" Given below are arguments that support your position. Summarize the evidence given below. Research your position and find as much additional information to support it as possible. Arrange your information into a compelling, convincing, and persuasive argument that your position is valid and correct. Plan how to best present your assigned position to ensure it receives a fair and complete hearing. Make at least one visual to help you present a persuasive case for your position.

1. **Diversity decreases stereotyping and prejudice.** It is only through direct contact and interaction with diverse individuals that stereotypes can be disconfirmed, personal relationships can be built, and prejudice can be reduced.
2. **Diversity increases the positiveness of relationships.** There is evidence that we like people we work with to achieve mutual goals. The positive relationships can lead to acceptance, respect, appreciation, and a commitment to equality.
3. **Diversity renews the vitality of society** by providing a source of energy and creativity. Music, dance, art, literature, and other aspects of culture are enriched and advance by the mixture of different cultural traditions and ways of perceiving the world.
4. **Diversity increases achievement and productivity.** Diverse groups have a wider range of resources available for completing the task and, therefore, tend to achieve higher and be more productive than so homogeneous groups.
5. **Diversity increases creative problem-solving.** Diverse groups tend to be more creative in their problem solving than homogeneous groups. The conflicts and disagreements that arise from the different perspectives and conclusions generates more creativeness than is unavailable in homogeneous groups.
6. **Diversity fosters growth in cognitive and moral reasoning.** Cognitive and moral growth depends on at least two different perspectives being applied to the same issue. Without such diversity, cognitive and moral growth cannot take place.
7. **Diversity fosters perspective taking** and a broader, more sophisticated view of the world and what happens within it. Without exposure to other perspectives, perspective-taking ability cannot develop. The more able a person is to take a wide variety of perspectives, the more sophisticated the person is. Being sophisticated means that one can see the world, events, and issues from a variety of perspectives. It is through diversity that sophistication is created.
8. **Diversity builds a commitment to American democracy.** It is not possible to value fully American democracy in a homogeneous environment. The values advocated in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence can best be understood through the protection of minority rights and the ability of minorities to influence the decisions of the majority.

