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### SDKPA Essay

After the workshop, I felt a stronger connection to the meaning of being a Korean American and Korean diaspora. While I was watching the movie I could feel all the emotions Jeronimo went through his hardships and his joyous moments. After experiencing the workshops and talking more about Korean diaspora I really felt the urge to incorporate more Korean history and culture into my own community. So it gave me the idea to start a Korean club at school. Although this club is still a decision to discuss and prepare I hope to make sure that it incorporates the history of Korean diaspora.

I felt that especially through the breakout rooms I got to know more about people and their views and opinions about Korean diaspora. I think with the recent things happening now most people think that there is more Korean influence through music and Kpop. Most people in my group also thought that Kpop groups like BTS and Blackpink have a wider influence on the world not only representing the music industry but also the Koreans. Because of the successes in Kpop throughout the world, I really felt proud of how much Koreans have achieved. Even after the unfair treatment and imperialism from Japan, Koreans rose up and worked hard together to achieve what they are today.

However, I still feel that there is a difference between Koreans living in Korea and Korean Americans. To be specific, most Korean Americans are not the typical “snow white skin” Korean as most expect to see in Korea. Therefore, I think that because America is so diverse and

Korea is more populated with Korean people, there has become a stereotype for foreigners. In present day, I think those stereotypes have improved, but I feel like there is still some judgement. Overall I think that nowadays there is more recognition to the Korean race and culture itself which makes me feel more proud. I think that I can embrace the Korean side of me more than previously because I was always conflicted with my identity. Despite not being able to speak Korean as well as my parents, I think I will strive to speak more Korean in the house and improve my speaking skills.

On my insights about the Jeronimo movie, I think it was a really wholesome film that changed the way I thought about Korean diaspora. This is because of the way Koreans like most other immigrants came to Cuba for a better life, but treated unfairly and lived as slaves. I think what I find most interesting is how even through those hardships Jeronimo and his family persevered to recognize their Korean heritage. I believe that through the movie and the workshop, people can adapt to their surroundings but their identity and heritage is still deeply embedded into their hearts.