

Living in San Francisco and going to a very progressive school there's a lot of equality around me. Although, living in the United States I see a lot more discrimination. Many kids at my school wanted Andrew Yang to win the 2020 election. When I talked to most adults though, they completely ruled him out, and I wonder why that is. Obviously people like other candidates, and don't like Yang's ideas, but I wonder if he was white would people listen to him more?

It's so important that everyone's ideas, thoughts, and voices are heard, no matter their race, religion, gender, sex, or any other beliefs. I remember one time when I was interning at VSCO (a photo editing app), and we were talking about their app. This place was really intimidating because of the kid to adult ratio. I thought they should change the app to make the buttons on it have the names of what they were under, but I was scared to say anything. I thought about it for a little bit and ended up saying my idea. They said it was a great idea and they actually went through with it. It goes to show that you should always use your voice and speak your truth because that can go a long way.

Like I said before it's so important that everyone's voices are heard. We live in a country, with a government that doesn't always listen to what the Asian American community has to say. In the United States Congress, there are 13 Asian American Members and 407 white members. This year's 116th congress is the most diverse, but when you look at the number of Asian Americans in office compared to the number of Asian Americans that live in the U.S. it's a huge difference, and that needs to be changed. In San Francisco, the Asian community makes up 33.3 percent of the city, which is a really significant portion of San Francisco; because of such a high number, it's so important that those Asian Americans are heard and represented. In the United States, the Asian community makes up 5.6 percent of the country. That number may seem small but this is a whole country we're talking about, so that kind of is a big number, and because of that it's crucial that those Asian Americans are heard and represented.

Although people don't always believe it, an Asian's voice is just as important as anyone else's. Growing up as an Asian in America makes me have a lot of faith in how others will listen to the Asian community going forward. Each voice, idea, and thought is unique, revealing, and has the ability to change the world. Including mine, and that's why I count.