

## Diversity Made Simple

1. Life is simple—people make it difficult.
2. Diversity           IS about understanding cultural differences  
                          IS NOT about white male bashing  
  
                          IS hearing a variety of perspectives  
                          IS NOT a lesson in political correctness  
  
                          IS you sharing your thoughts, ideas and opinions with the group  
                          IS NOT a lecture about how you should think, feel or act
3. We live in an environment/society where people are afraid to make mistakes. People are afraid to talk to one another. **WE MUST FOSTER OPEN AND HONEST DIALOGUE! WHEN WE HAVE “MEANINGFUL INTERACTION” WE FIND WE HAVE MORE THINGS IN COMMON THAN DIFFERENCES!**
4. Prior to open and honest dialogue stereotypes play a major role in our lack of interaction.
5. We all need “to be a little uncomfortable for everyone to be comfortable.”
6. Author Stephen Covey writes “Very few of us see life as it actually is. Most of us see it from we are.”
7. **We must acknowledge the “cultural filters” through which we view life. These filters (education, parents, media, friends, etc.) influence our interactions.**
8. We all need to put ourselves “in someone else’s place.” How many of us have ever been the “minority” in a situation?
9. **Education system must change! Students need to learn about African Americans, Women, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Homosexuals, etc. This knowledge breeds respect and helps dispel stereotypes. If we can get rid of stereotypes we take a significant first step towards ending racism and oppression!**
10. We must have media balance. Negative media portrayals of African Americans, Native American, Latinos, homosexuals, etc. must be countered with accurate, positive images to combat the constant barrage of negative.
11. **White folk have culture too!!!**
12. Diversity dialogue must become “win-win” situation. We need to think about what we ALL stand to GAIN as opposed to what we stand to LOSE.
13. **People must not be afraid to “make mistakes.” It’s through open and honest dialogue that we learn!**
14. Diversity is not just black-white. It’s left handed people in a right-handed world. It’s tall people amongst short folk. It’s people from the East coast compared to people from the Midwest. At some point, we all represent diversity!
15. Diversity dialogue is **NOT** an intellectual conversation. Educated folks are taught to justify and rationalize everything. “Common sense” would go a long way. Diversity dialogue must move from **YOUR HEAD TO YOUR HEART!**

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BENEFITS GAINED FROM VALUING, APPRECIATING AND NURTURING THE DIVERSITY AMONGST US!**