

Static 1 INDIVIDUAL

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TITLE OF SUBMISSION: My View on Improving Singapore

SUMMARY: This essay will showcase the following topics: Religion and Spirituality, Science and Technology, Education and Development, and Politics and Governance. It covers some ways we can create a better united and stronger Singapore, talking about various issues and initiatives that will help in the awareness of making Singapore a unified country. There are discussions about the law, the education system, and even keeping contact with the elderly. Better understanding of my topics includes lengthy and detailed explanations to make you know what problems I am trying to solve/raise awareness of. Potentially it will help Singapore with sustaining and improving its unifying efforts to become a better country.

There are many ways of how we can build a stronger and more unified Singapore. There is still a wide range of issues that have not been completely resolved in Singapore. For instance, racism is still an issue. The minorities may feel the implication that they are clearly not the majority of the population, and thus feel pressured to act against other races due to having the feeling of needing to defend themselves.. We should never disrupt Singapore's reputation of being a multicultural society. We can build a stronger and more unified Singapore by educating and encouraging a formation of a bond between everyone.

Religion and Spirituality-

Currently, Singapore is composed of a plethora of religions, many being Christian. There is of course more than just that, including Catholicism, Buddhism, Muslim, Hindu and much more. All religions should be more accepting of other religions. From personal experiences, I have seen some people in Singapore who despise each other just because they follow a different faith.

My suggestion is that Singapore should have days similar to racial harmony day, but for religion to thoroughly educate people on other religions, and reminding them to always be accepting of others. My next suggestion is to have an addition to the education system. Schools should have a lesson where teachers will inculcate a "culture of unity" to students so that they will learn to be accepting to other religions, even if it might offend them. They will be able to gain a mutual understanding and in the end, more friends can be made. Maybe even bonding activities would provide not only fun but also allow people to get to know others who are "different". Even just playing team sports with each other will help. Unconsciously, everyone will get together even if they did not try to necessarily "bond" as they inevitably have to work together when playing a team sport.

Science & Technology

In current times, the older segment of the population are more disconnected from the digital world and thus younger generations will feel farther apart from them when their interests are like day and night. I propose the idea of enhancing intergenerational connections with the power of technology. We will build a platform to allow the different generations to communicate with each other, such that it enables healthy relationships to be formed. Software engineers will design an online website where elders can chat easily with younger people, sharing their experiences and wisdom and creating a cohesive environment of intergenerational communication. Volunteers will teach the elders how to use the app and thus we can finally have a much bigger chance for children like me or anyone else to heed advice from a wiser person.

Education and Development

We can create programmes in school that enhance the educational curricula to a further extent, in particular, of Singapore's history. Scholarly volunteers that specialise in the subject of history can make a change by giving an educational experience to the students of this generation, encouraging them to have pride in their country. The educational activities will help students make connections between the past and the present. It will also instil a sense of rootedness and unifying connections across students as they all share a common opinion of being proud of Singapore. They will have a national identity, implying an amalgamation between them whenever Singapore comes to their mind. Or, teachers can teach students important values of unity amongst Singapore such that everyone will have the opportunity to learn to build a more unified Singapore. That will also raise awareness that though Singapore is a generally united country, we can be better through solving the tiny details of problematic issues.

Politics and Governance

There has to be justice in Singapore. There are those who unfortunately have seen the face of injustice and have been hurt by it. A young person's voice is sometimes ignored simply because they are young and therefore "shouldn't be heard out". I think younger people should have a chance to voice their concerns and issues and to have a say in the decisions that are made. It is important for their voices to be heard because they may offer fresh perspectives and insights. I have seen examples of students getting bullied, getting back at the bullies and then being punished, whilst the bully is given empathy despite him or her starting the conflict. To what extent will this be considered a legitimate case of self defence for the victim if the victim gets back at the offender? There should be a clear platform to allow for the victim's voice to be heard. Many a time, by the time the victim is given attention, too much damage has been done. The law states that if you are going to be attacked by someone, you either have to lose the fight, or allow the attacker to harm you first before you make a move so that you won't be charged for defending yourself. Why should a victim have to get hurt first so that he can legitimately fight back? This is an area in the justice system that can be addressed.