



4/14/15

A Block

I Have a Dream

There is a large Asian representation in Lexington, but this is not the case in media currently. I asked an Asian friend to name some famous Asian actors and actresses. She responded with Jackie Chan and then “the girl from ‘Kung Fu Panda’”. That’s it. That’s all she could name. I later asked another Asian friend to do the same thing. She quickly answered with Jackie Chan and “the lady from ‘Elementary’”, who also happens to be “the girl from ‘Kung Fu Panda’”. Basically, there is a clear underrepresentation of Asians, along with other minorities, in media today.

Young non-white individuals are going to watch television shows and movies and notice that the important characters do not look like them. Instead, they’re stuck with trying to relate to a similar-looking character completely built up on racial stereotypes. This leaves viewers with a perception of how they or a certain group of people should act. Just to clarify: Not all Asians are nerds, know karate, or have tiger moms.

I have a dream of diversity on our television and movie screens. I hope that one day we will be able to completely relate to various prominent figures and characters of our race. We need an array of representation in the media. Not just variety in the color of the actors’ skin, but in their character’s personality and backstory.