

**Expression écrite**

Asian-American Students Suing Harvard Over Affirmative Action Win Justice Dept. Support

The plaintiffs, a group of Asian-Americans rejected by Harvard, contend that the school has systematically discriminated against them by artificially capping the number of qualified Asian-Americans from attending the school to advance less qualified students of other races.

The filing said that Harvard “uses a vague ‘personal rating’ that harms Asian-American applicants’ chances for admission and may be infected with racial bias; engages in unlawful racial balancing; and has never seriously considered race-neutral alternatives in its more than 45 years of using race to make admissions decisions.”

Before 2006, statements appeared only seven times in civil rights-oriented disputes, according to a recent paper by law school student Victor Zapana. From 2006 to 2011, they were drafted in at least 242, almost all by the Obama administration on issues such as videotaping police brutality and ensuring that blind people and their service dogs have access to Uber.

But the Trump administration is turning the same tool against affirmative action in college admissions, a major — and highly contentious — legacy of the civil rights era, and one that white conservatives have opposed for decades. In the past few years, the anti-affirmative action cause has been joined by Asian-Americans who argue that they are being held to a higher standard, losing out on coveted slots at places like Harvard as African-Americans, Latinos and other groups get a boost.

A handful of states already ban public universities from relying on affirmative action, pushing several toward a model that takes socioeconomic factors into account instead of race. Public universities in California and Washington have tried to engineer class-based diversity in their student bodies, believing that giving a lift to lower-income students will end up bringing in more minority students as well.

Now, universities that factor race into admissions have found a powerful new opponent in the Trump administration, which argued in its filing on Thursday that the court should deny Harvard’s request to dismiss the case before trial.

The government said that Supreme Court rulings require that universities considering race in admissions meet several standards. They must define their diversity-related goals and show that they cannot meet those goals without using race as a factor in admissions decisions.

“Harvard does not discriminate against applicants from any group, and will continue to vigorously defend the legal right of every college and university to consider race as one factor among many in college admissions, which the Supreme Court has consistently upheld for more than 40 years,” the university said in a statement.

A broad coalition of Harvard supporters filed briefs in support of the school Thursday condemning the lawsuit and saying that it would effectively threaten diversity at all American colleges.

Adapted from *The New York Times*, by Katie Benner, August 31, 2018

Questions : Le candidat indiquera lui-même le nombre de mots employés dans ses réponses

1. According to the article, what are the effects of affirmative action in the US higher education? Answer the question in your own words (80 +/- 10%)
2. Is affirmative action the only way of cutting social injustice? Answer, illustrating your answer with relevant examples (180 +/- 10%)

## Thème

POUR LE THEME, MERCI DE RÉDIGER UNE LIGNE SUR DEUX

Voici l'histoire d'un fantôme, qui s'est glissé dans ma vie par un matin d'été ensoleillé, et qui dès lors ne m'a plus quittée. Catherine Dior a surgi alors que je déambulais dans le jardin de La Colle Noire, l'élégant château de son frère Christian. Elle y a vécu quelque temps, après la mort de celui-ci.

Elle vient au monde en août 1917, juste avant que Raymond, son frère aîné, ne parte pour le front. Mais lors de ce séjour enchanteur à La Colle Noire, j'étais loin de songer à la guerre.

(...)

Grâce aux souvenirs d'un voisin qui vit dans l'immeuble depuis son enfance, je retrouve l'appartement parisien où Catherine se réfugie pendant la guerre.

L'occupant actuel connaît bien l'histoire des lieux. Il me sourit avec douceur, caresse une plante, près de la fenêtre :  
« Je suis sûr que Catherine aimerait qu'on mette des plantes. »

« Et les papillons ? » Je lui montre les cadres en verre suspendus aux murs.

« Ça, c'est une autre histoire ! Ils me rappellent Catherine, et j'ai le sentiment que ces créatures ailées protègent des cauchemars.

- Vos cauchemars à vous ?
- Non, ceux de Catherine. Vous comprenez pourquoi ? »

J'acquiesce en silence.

Adapté de Justine Picardie, *Miss Dior*, 2021

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