

When I got to Princeton University, I at some point changed my major from math to sociology and Judaic studies, and in my Judaic studies classes, I typically was the only woman, only Christian, and only African-American, and I felt that at different moments in the conversation, whether it was people not thinking I knew enough to converse about a particular issue, whether it was religious based on something involving the conflict in Israel, but I had professors who stressed that you have something to add, by virtue of being a woman, by virtue of being a Black woman. There is tremendous value in that, so I stand in that and I think it wasn't just those professors that instilled that in me, as even as a child my father always stressed to us regardless of how the world may label you, you are special, you are unique, and you have a purpose that you are meant to find and to serve, and know that you are no lesser than anybody. So I think when it's instilled in you at an early age, you enter Latin school, you enter Princeton University, and you don't feel lesser than anyone.