

I remember in my first year of high school, to join clubs you signed up on a piece of paper that only had the club's name. Seeing the club's name, MAC (Mentoring, achievement, and community) Ambassador, I thought it was supposed to mentor others. After joining the club, I noticed I was the only Asian among about 15 other African Americans. In the club, we talk about the injustice that black is unequally treated and about African American culture. Even though I agree with what they say, I feel like I was cheated on, because what they were discussing has nothing to do with mentoring and helping the community when you are only discussing and learning but not acting. I did not know what to do. I felt uncomfortable since I do not know how to quit a club after joining to not hurt anyone's feelings, so I stayed. I feel uncomfortable after not being able to fit into their trendy topic or their group of friends. They made me scared to try out new clubs by myself because I do not want to have to go through another mental battle to stay at another club where I do not know anyone and do not feel belonged. Now I will typically only join a club after knowing my friends are there and they recommend it to me, after researching, or they promise that we can join together.

Many immigrants might not even know a club exists until a friend or teacher asks if they want to join. Some immigrants that know their interest in what kind of club or program to join are losing out on many opportunities to get a leadership role, for knowing the existence of a club or program too late. While other immigrants who do not know what exact kind of club they want to join, cannot explore their options and pick ones that they like that fit them. It is hard for us immigrants to join a club that we are unfamiliar with, even with a short conversation with the supervisor of the club, recruiters, other club members, and those that heard about it, because we do not know if it really fits us, especially when we are so unprepared with people suddenly asking about "If we want to join this club." The lack of knowledge is what restricted immigrants from joining. Most Americans can get club information that is available through older siblings who have experience with the school and some even from parents, but for immigrants, there is less possibility since there is no one in their family that goes through that experience that can give them that information. Many immigrants are not able to join clubs, resulting in them feeling socially disconnected or isolated.

Having a club fair can let students be able to have more people understand the basics of what each club is doing and what kind of people they are looking for. Like why a college wants a club fair or a college fair, high schools should too. Club fairs can expose students to more options to have a feeling of which they fit in, ask questions, and have a greater understanding of what the club does compare to their imagination. Finding the right people to join the club or finding the right club to join is just like finding your future. It is important to find the ones that fit you the most. Hosting a Club Fair online or physically can get more people to understand the purpose, motivation, and what they are trying to achieve, and that attracts more passionate people into your club.

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