



Photo by Taylor Means

**“Where are you actually from?”  
—Zamira Chavez**

**What is a microaggression that you have received?**



Photo by Taylor Means

**“You are so tall, give me some of your height!”  
—Sophie Mickus**

Infographic by Isabella Bogo

# Microaggressions have a macro impact

*The Chronicle Staff*

**A**ccording to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a microaggression is “a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group.” Microaggressions can be pointed towards someone’s race, ethnicity, or religion.

One might think, ‘I know I’m not racist, so this doesn’t even apply to me.’ Well, you may be saying microaggressions all the time without even realizing their effect on people.

In most cases, these hurtful comments are spoken with no harmful intentions. What makes microaggressions different is that these words of prejudice often sound innocent to anyone not on the receiving end.

The Chronicle believes it’s time that everyone becomes more aware of what microaggressions sound like and why they shouldn’t be taken lightly.

As we were discussing this topic during newspaper class, right away members of the staff shared their own personal experiences surrounding microaggressions. Amalia Sanmillan, sophomore, said, “I was born in Spain and speak Spanish. When I tell people that, they often say, ‘But you’re too white’ or ‘You don’t look Spanish’ or ‘You’re just a white girl, how do you speak Spanish’ or ‘So, you’re like a white Mexican.’” Simple statements like these are all based on stereotypes that can be very insulting.

Stereotypes about appearances play a

big factor in microaggressions, as all the other examples from the staff were also centered around assumptions based on looks. Jennah Klein, senior, said, “Someone found out I was Jewish and said, ‘I know, I could tell.’” This is offensive because the person is guessing Klein’s religion based on preconceived ideas of what she should look like.

Microaggressions can also be aimed at someone’s disabilities, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity. An anonymous source said, “When I’ve come out to new people, I usually get told, ‘But you look straight.’” This is an example of a microaggression because it uses stereotypes to assume that people who are gay or

straight must look a certain way.

Don Hoaglin, English teacher, also experiences microaggressions because of his Native American heritage. Hoaglin said, “All these different generalizations and stereotypes really have a role in how people perceive others, but also how we perceive ourselves.”

HR is filled with people from all sorts of backgrounds, cultures, identities, and religion, so it is time we put an end to microaggressions. One way to do this is through education. You could attend a No Place For Hate meeting, where they try to stop discrimination, or you could let others tell you about themselves first. Just by reading this article, you are already taking a step to end microaggressions because now you know what they sound like.

**“All these different generalizations and stereotypes really have a role in how people perceive others, but also how we perceive ourselves.”**

**—Don Hoaglin**