

Narrator: Sarah Delima  
 Interviewer: Paycee Minaya  
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Time	Transcription
0:03	PM: Hello.
	SD: Hello.
	PM: My name is Paycee Minaya, today is May 23, 2022 and I am interviewing Sarah Delima through Zoom for the University of California San Diego Race and Oral History project. Do you agree to grant the university permission to archive and publish this interview for educational purposes?
0:23	SD: Yes, I do.
0:24	PM: Lovely. Thank you. Do you wanna just jump right in?
0:29	SD: Sure!
0:32	PM: Okay, so first, could you please introduce yourself? What is your full name, where did you grow up, name, major, year?
0:39	SD: Sure! My name is Sarah Delima, I'm a second year History major at UCSD. I'm originally from LA, or LA adjacent, in this neighborhood called Arcadia. Yeah
0:55	PM: Can you describe your hometown?
0:59	SD: Yeah, sure. So, I moved to Arcadia, like, in 5th grade and I've been there ever since. It's, like I said, it's near LA and I guess the most important thng to understand about arcadia is that it's predominantly asian, and, or East Asian, specifically, and because of that, there are a lot of, like, affluent neighborhoods in arcadia. There's only one high school, the high school that I went to, Arcadia High. And it's really competitive for some reason, I'm not sure why. But that's just the main thing that I remember growing up there is that I always felt this kind of pressure throughout my entire schooling, even in 5th grade, which I think is a little early –
1:52	PM: Wow.
1:52	SD: To start feeling that kind of pressure about college and stuff. So yeah.

Time	Transcription
1:57	PM: So I do want to get to talking about your, like, educational experience a little bit later if that's okay with you –
2:03	SD: Of course.
2:03	PM: For now, do you think you could tell me a bit more about your family?
2:06	SD: Yeah, so, do you mean my extended family, or just..?
2:12	PM: Who you grew up with – your parents, your siblings if you have any?
2:15	SD: Sure. so my parents are allen and chriselda delima. And I have one older brother who's a year older than me. He just turned 21 actually, his name is aaron. Growing up, though, I was always really close with my cousins and I have like a pretty big, large extensive family on both sides. My dad grew up with nine siblings and my mom grew up with nine, and all my cousins and I are super close, so they're basically my siblings.
2:46	PM: How many cousins do you have total, like on both your mom's and your dad's side?
2:50	SD: Oh, I don't –
2:50	PM: [laughs]
2:51	SD: I don't even know, like, I think I've tried – also 'cause a lot of them got pregnant young, so they have their own families and it's just like really hard to keep track. On my mom's, though, there's like, maybe like, twenty-five? Like, I don't know including their husbands and their children though.
3:10	PM: Oh, okay okay.
3:12	SD: I count them as my cousins cause they're basically– they basically are.
3:16	PM: It's so cool that you have such a big family and that you are also close. I think that's awesome. I know that you mentioned that you had one older brother –
3:23	SD: Yes.
3:24	PM: Is that, is that just, like, the two of you in terms of –
3:27	SD: Yeah it's just the two of us.
3:30	PM: Do you think that like, your place in the sibling order influenced sort of like the expectations you had growing up?

Time	Transcription
3:36	SD: Not really, actually. Well, I guess I was babied a little bit because I am younger but because our age difference is so small, we were essentially raised the same except for I think – the thing that mattered more to my parents was the fact that he was a male. I am a girl. Rather than like our age difference, there was a lot of ways they treated me differently because of that.
4:08	PM: That’s actually, like, the perfect segway into my next question. I was going to ask if you could tell me a little bit about your culture like, what was that like?
4:16	SD: Yeah sure. So both of my parents immigrated here from the Philippines and so then, growing up our household was just like a mixture of both, like Filipino and American cultures. My parents, at least – my mom moved here when she was like in high school so she – she was pretty assimilated but she also went back to the Philippines a lot so, there was some aspects of Filipino culture that kind of stayed with her. Did you need anything specific, or just want me to...?
4:48	PM: I just want to know more about like, your Filipino-American identity and culture and what that was like growing up.
4:54	SD: Sure. sure, of course. Well, that’s something I always struggled with, kind of that like biculturalism. ‘Cause I was always aware I was Filipino but I was also like really Americanized and one thing though is that my parents didn’t teach me Tagalog. Like I understand it – for those listening and don’t know, Tagalog is the Filipino language or one of the dialects so I understand it well or not well. I can understand it but I don’t speak it well and that’s something I always regretted and my parents – whenever I ask them about it, it was always because they wanted me to be able to like assimilate into American culture so I always felt that was just a part of my identity that was kind of like withheld from me and it's something that I wish I knew, like growing up like I wish I asked them more about the Philippines and like language and things like that. But there are things we do that are very like Filipino. We eat a lot of Filipino food, the way we celebrate like family parties, we do a lot of like “traditionally” Filipino things – karaoke being one of them.
6:10	PM: [laughs]
6:15	SD: Yeah, but, that’s all I got.
	PM: Thank you so much for sharing that with me. I know that language acculturation especially is also something that’s like, that’s a common theme–
6:20	SD: Mhm mhm.
6:21	PM: Among like, immigrants, children of immigrants, and even then, like, it doesn’t make it like, any easier, you know.

Time	Transcription
6:26	SD: Yeah, yeah
6:26	PM: Yeah, I totally get it. I was wondering if, 'cause I know you mentioned that there were aspects of your culture that you really connected with. I was wondering if there were like other aspects of Filipino culture that maybe you didn't connect with so well?
6:40	SD: Sure. I think the Philippines – they're very Catholic. [laughs] And my parents are very religious. That was something – I grew up in like a religious household but that was something I kind of had to grapple with myself, like, as I grew up kind of like feeling a little disconnected from organized religion and not really wanting to follow that path the way, like, my parents do and still want me to. It's something that I still can't really talk to them about, like, it's just really hard for them to understand like where I'm coming from and like not wanting to go to church and do all these like traditionally Catholic/Christian things but... yeah.
7:31	PM: Do you think that things would be different if, I guess, like, that sort of catholic influence wasn't there – your relationship with your parents?
7:41	SD: Oh, yeah definitely. Like, I think that all the time, actually. That's just one of the main things yeah it just like bleeds into every other aspect of our relationship – not saying that I have a bad relationship with my parents, it's just something that i noticed every time i do interact with them is that we are coming from two like different perspectives
8:03	PM: Can you tell me a little bit more about that “bleeding into”?
8:06	SD: Yeah, I don't they're just really strict and for me it seems a little irrational but to them, they're able to justify it because they're like, “oh this is what the bible says or like this is what god says” and to me that that's not a good enough reason for them to like be doing these things, or acting the way they act, yeah. To me, it, I guess, to sum it up, to me, I don't understand like at all why they're so, they feel so strongly about religion but that's something that they grew up with too, I guess
8:40	PM: I see. I'm interested – 'cause I'm interested in this notion of like, “bleeding into” and i'm wondering if – to segway a little bit into our next section – I'm wondering if this notion of bleeding into – like, the catholicism part of it – if that bleeds into like, your academics at all? Like, is there any sort of justification for like, you pursuing higher education at all?
8:59	SD: I'm sorry, I didn't catch that last part.
9:02	PM: Oh! Is there – is there, like, a religious justification for like you pursuing higher education at all?
9:09	SD: Hm, I actually never thought about it like that I think maybe subconsciously, yeah, but when I was applying to college, I wasn't thinking like in my head like –

Time	Transcription
9:19	PM: Like, catholic schools were not something that you considered?
9:22	SD: Yeah.
9:24	PM: I see, well, thank you for sharing that with me, I really appreciate that... um... hello? hello?
9:34	SD: Oh, yeah, sorry, sorry, there was like, a plane
9:37	PM: Oh! Hello?
9:38	SD: Hello?
9:40	PM: Can you hear me?
9:41	SD: Yeah.
9:41	PM: Okay, cool, thank you [laughs]. Okay, well thank you for telling me that, I appreciate it. I was wondering if you could tell me a little bit more about your school life, like what was high school like for you?
9:56	SD: Sure! So as I mentioned before I grew up in arcadia high, I grew up in Arcadia and I went to Arcadia High and I guess the one thing that I would say to describe it is it was just extremely competitive, like, very stressful all of my close friends and I like were really focused. All my close friends were focused on getting into college because that's something that their parents wanted from them. For me I guess it was a little different 'cause like my parents didnt really expect that from me to go to the four year university mainly because they didn't and they didn't really know much about college and higher education so college was always something I wanted for myself rather than what my parents wanted for me but I guess it's hard to say that I wanted it for myself because I was really influenced by like everyone I grew up with like my friends mainly went into that yeah so then I just entered this really competitive academic oriented culture and I think that that really changed the way that I viewed school because everyone was taking it seriously so then I felt that I had to and I really did I really did try in high school like I took APs, I did the extracurriculars but I guess one thing that set me apart from the other students there is that I wasn't like trying to get to Harvard I wasn't trying to be that like "go to the number one school in the country" I was okay with really any four year university just because that was something that like my parents didn't have so by comparison anything that I went to would be great like I wasn't really interested in the prestige of university like when I was applying.
11:47	PM: That's really interesting. Can you tell me a little bit more about I guess like if your parents weren't at I guess the forefront of your motivators that like pushed you to pursue higher education –

Time	Transcription
11:58	SD: yeah
11:58	PM: First of all what motivated you and second of all I'm very interested in who did you turn to –
12:04	SD: Yeah.
12:06	PM: – in trying to apply?
12:06	SD: Well this might sound like a little lame – I really enjoyed some parts of school, like,
12:13	PM: [laughs]
12:16	SD: Yeah like I wanna pursue education after college so like obviously I did enjoy like learning a lot in some of my classes not all of them but I think that was it like I just found something that I liked was good at – I really liked reading and learning about history that's why I am a history major yeah so that was mainly I think – there are obviously a lot of other things that I didn't feel like I could make money like eno – like, a livable wage without going to college but it was always something that I wanted to do because I was just interested in not so much the social aspects of college like I know that's why some people go –
13:03	PM: Yeah.
13:03	SD: But I really wanted to go like take cool classes about like decolonial theory or whatever –
13:12	PM: Just nerd out a little bit?
13:13	SD: Yeah, yeah, exactly, as for like ,who I turned to, I don't know it was a little hard like ii had friends who were all going through the same thing right cause we were all seniors in high school applying but I was a little embarrassed to ask them because their parents had like done the whole thing and they knew exactly what they were doing and I didn't and I didn't want to seem like I don't now weak? I was just a little embarrassed to ask them so that's not something that I did comfortably so I was just a little lost like during the entire time I relied on like the internet like a lot obviously some of my older cousins who had just they were also like the first in their families to go to college I asked them, like, how they did it, their advice, yeah, oh one thing I do remember though is like my friend my best friend she was taking like classes aboutlike how to write or craft the perfect like “UC” essay right and then I rem- I really wanted to go to that class because I didn't know, but then I - like I talked to my parents about it and they were like “oh we just can't afford it” so then after like I would just ask her everything she learned from that class a way of just like milking out information without having to like pay.

Time	Transcription
14:42	PM: And do you think it was helpful?
14:45	SD: I honestly do not remember any of the advice she gave me I feel like I feel like it is hard to write a college essay without any guidance like at all so like that did help me, I would say
15:02	PM: I'm glad that that helped you – i'm glad that you're here now
15:04	SD: Yeah. Also! Sorry, I forgot to mention one thing, but I did take like an SAT preparation class it's something had to like beg my parents to do, ike, it's something that I wanted cause I just really wanted to go to college
15:19	PM: And it came from YOU, that motivation –
15:20	SD: Yeah.
15:20	PM: That's really awesome. Can you tell me a little bit more about your, I wanna say like, status relative to that of your peers?
15:33	SD: In high school or college?
15:34	PM: In high school, yeah, 'cause I know that you had mentioned your peers and how their parents had already done the sort of applying thing that you didn't really have experience with. Tell me more about that dynamic
15:45	SD: Oh yeah! Sure, so, there were some like, significant differences but I mean like I was middle class a lot of my friends were middle class in that sense were were the same and we were also I did go to a predominantly asian school like I wasn't, I didn't feel othered in that aspect but for the whole college thing it was, I don't know, I felt it most when we were having conversations between me and my close friends about college and I feel like I couldn't keep up because I didn't know what they were talking about. Like, I didn't know that there were two different like, there was a UC and there was a Common App application I didn't know that and then like I didn't know when I should start writing my essays and then I remember one summer summer after junior year one of my friends was like, telling me about their essay and I was like "oh my god, I have to do that – like, do I have to do that now?" Yeah, it was just a lot of me feeling like, I don't know,I was behind all the time because they had or they seemed to have everything figured out and I was just trying to like, take it as it went.
17:00	PM: So, just to kind of like, segway a little bit into a different part of questioning. What you said about like I guess, sort of like being behind is a very common theme amongst like, first-generation, you know, students, do you consider yourself a first-generation student?

Time	Transcription
17:17	SD: I don't really know what that means. I did search it up and I think I am one, like according to google my parents went to they didn't go to four year universities they went to like for-profit two year universities here in america my mom went back like when she was older a couple yars ago, actually. But, so I don't wanna make it seem like, like I don't wanna exaggerate like my status as a first generation student but there were some barriers I don't think they were as significant as like some other people might have faced but it's definitely something that I noticed growing up.
18:01	PM: And so do you connect with that label of like a first-generation student?
18:06	SD: I don't know actually yeah I dunno I feel like its hard to kind of like define someone's experience in just like one term I feel like it is different for a lot of people who call themselves first-generation there's obviously a spectrum so I don't know what label i'd feel comfortable with but I don't know [laughs] Yeah.
18:32	PM: It's okay. Thank you for sharing that I think it speaks to, I guess, how diverse a the narrative of being a first generation student regardless of whether or not you subscribe to that, so—
18:41	SD: Yeah.
18:42	PM: Thank you for sharing. Kind of bringing it back, I guess, to your initial thoughts on college, can you tell me a little more about like UCSD, what made you wanna apply, why UCSD?
18:53	SD: Sure, so obviously I like kind of wanted to be away from home without being too far from home, 'cause I don't think I could do the whole out-of-state thing 'cause I just, I need to see my family at least once a month. So that was – location was a big thing for me, obviously. I didn't know too much about all the UCs but then I liked the idea of the whole separate colleges, “small college feel but with the resources of like a research university,” yeah, whoever made that advertising campaign, yeah, that really sold me.
19:38	PM: [laughs]
19:38	SD: Yeah I guess those were the main things. Also I guess 'cause I don't know, UCLA and Berkeley just seems way too competitive to me, so I wanted to like set my sights on something pretty reasonable something that like I was confident that I could get into cause I didn't want to stress myself out too much and honestly, like, I didn't care about prestige that much, I just wanted to get in somewhere, so I was like, “okay, I can do this, but, we'll see,” and then I did get in so I was very happy about that.
20:13	PM: I'm happy you're here [laughs].
20:14	SD: [laughs]

Time	Transcription
20:15	PM: Was there a specific reason, or did you know you wanted to be a history major from the get-go?
20:21	SD: Yeah. since like 8th grade, actually, yeah. ‘Cause I was really, yeah, I was rally inspired by my *th grade history teacher and the way that she taught the class she was like really engaged in her teaching, you could tell that it was something that she like really was passionate about, yeah.
20:42	PM: What specific part of history, if you don’t mind me asking, or what specific type of history are you interested in studying?
20:49	SD: I’m interested in US history. It was all – I actually, do remember the first time I was like “this is what I wanna do for the rest of my life. I was in 8th grade ‘cause that’s when you learn US history for the first time, I think in middle school, and then I read, on the side, like I just picked up Howard Zinn’s <i>People’s History of the United States</i> , and it’s like, kind of –
21:14	PM: [laughs]
21:14	SD: Yeah, yeah. It centers you know, not really traditionally represented communities in America and it studies history in that lens–
21:24	PM: Yeah.
21:24	SD: And it was something when I was reading it for the first time, I was like, “Oh I didn’t know that you could do this”, like I didn’t know that that was possible and then, yeah that really, like motivated me to want to pursue history in that kind of way.
21:36	PM: That’s awesome that you were exposed to that sort of decolonial lens at such a young age.
21:39	SD: Yeah.
21:40	PM: I think that’s really really cool.
21:41	SD: Yeah.
21:41	PM: Do you think that so far at UCSD has done a good job of sort of fulfilling that I guess like standard that you have for yourself?
21:51	SD: Do you mean about the decolonial lens of history?
21:56	PM: Yeah, or just like–

Time	Transcription
21:57	SD: Oh, yeah I would say obviously I think that everyone has room to learn and there are things that we could probably fix but all of my professors I think have taught with that kind of intention and that's something I really appreciate – it's something I didn't get in high school, so, yeah I was really excited when I got here.
22:18	PM: That's really great. Can you tell me a little bit more about the memorable professors you've had so far?
22:25	SD: Sure,well, I remember, well, I'm in ERC so I take the whole MMW sequence *laughs* yeah, and then a lot of my professors in like their lectures we would talk about like, capitalism and like, deconstructing capitalism. I remember like reading the Communist Manifesto the whole time for the, for the first time though like completely through, like, front-to-back, and I was just like, this is something that like my history teachers in high school didn't tell me like all they would say is “communism is bad” –
23:02	PM: Yeah, absolutely.
23:04	SD: Yeah, so then, just being able to like, learn those things for myself under the guidance of a professor who like genuinely wanted to deconstruct these pretty broad topics for me was great.
23:19	PM: That's so cool, I'm so glad that you're enjoying MMW, that's not something that like I hear a lot [laughs].
23:25	SD: [laughs] Yeah.
23:26	PM: Sort of bouncing back a little bit, I know you're telling me about your current experience, but do you think you could tell me a little bit more about your transition to college, like, was there anything difficult about it? I know that you're a second year, so you graduated in COVID–
23:42	SD: Yeah.
23:42	PM: Now you're here, you started UCSD during COVID, can you tell me a little bit about that transition?
23:48	SD: Yeah, well obviously it wasn't too hard for me first year because my last year was of highschool was online, my first year of college was online, so it kind of felt the same. Like, I had the same struggles as I did in high school being online mainly just like I didn't know how to separate my time, like I was stuck in my room like the whole day, it wasn't really anything particular to college. But when I did move,I think the most shocking think was just like being away from my family. It wasn't really like the academic side 'cause I, like I mentioned before I did come from a really competitive high school so I was kind of used to that atmosphere. By the time I got here, which is another reason why I think my case is a

Time	Transcription
	little different from like “traditional” like first-generation college students because I did get a pretty thorough high school education.
24:48	PM: Rigorous.
24:49	SD: Yeah, yeah, very. But, yeah I just remember my dad dropping me of, first day, and like him crying, but I do actually go back home pretty often like twice a month, so, like every other week so it’s not that huge of a difference, but I do miss them.
25:10	PM: Okay, it’s good that that’s sort of mediated–
25:13	SD: Yeah.
25:14	PM: That you can go back and forth as–
25:15	SD: Yeah, yeah.
25:16	PM: Often as you can, that’s really awesome transition, or not transition, sorry, it’s just a really awesome thing, one second. Can you tell me a bit about how i guess entering college during COVID has been for you in terms of like, academics? I know you said that it didn’t really affect you that much, but was there a change you noticed at all?
25:38	SD: Entering during COVID, yeah, yeah there was I just, don’t think online education is really for me, especially when it’s asynchronous lectures posted once on Canvas. I really struggled with that, I just didn’t feel like I was learning as much as I could have been. A lot of that is my fault like I didn't feel like I had to pay attention cause I wasn't in an environment where like everyone else was where I could talk to people like around me also like the housing crisis like when I moved here was just, it was insane. Cause I didnt know – usually UCs offer the two-year dorming guarantee.
26:28	PM: Yeah.
26:29	SD: But they didn’t my year because of COVID. So I didn’t know if I would get a dorm til like, middle of the summer, then I had to scramble to like find an apartment. And I don’t live in La Jolla cause rent is too expensive
26:42	PM: Oh god.
26:43	SD: Yeah, that was just crazy.
26:48	PM: Sorry, can you clarify – so like did you move for your first year? Or did you just –
26:50	SD: No no no, I moved for my second year. First year was completely online so i was, so I was just home going crazy.

Time	Transcription
26:58	PM: Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. Okay, wow, that's insane. So I guess, now that, now that things are in-person, though, how would you like, classify your experience – are you enjoying your like, more in-person experience right now?
27:13	SD: Oh, yeah I definitely am, I am , though i am really shy, like I am not the first person in lecture to like, raise my hand. I feel like that part was easier on Zoom. I do just like being able to like, I feel like a little bit is, a little bit of it us just like, me performing or like playing a role. Like, I like putting on my backpack and like, walking to the bus and like, doing all these like, little rituals like things that I missed during covid. I like sitting in the classroom and watching a slideshow on the the screen. I do think it helps to like be able to talk with classmates around me when like I struggle with topics. Yeah, I am really enjoying it, basically.
28:06	PM: [laughs] I'm really glad to hear that. Do you think that I guess, if your experience with in-person schooling had sort of like been the start of your UCSD experience that you would have enjoyed it a bit more?
28:19	SD: Definitely, I think about that a lot. I try not to dwell on it because, I mean, can't do anything about it but I did miss out on like the whole dorming experience cause like, I've never dormed, probably never will.
28:37	PM: Aw.
28:38	SD: Yeah, that idea of being able to live on-campus and not need a car, just like walking everywhere, really appealed to me, so when I didn't get that, I was sad but I was like, "oh there's nothing I can do about it, so i've gotta make the most of what I have"
28:57	PM: That is a good segway into our next question and that is like, in addition to the whole like dorming not-dorming commuting situation, what about college has surprised you?
29:03	SD: Hmm, surprised me. I would say just like how knowledgeable my professors are like that is something that I am always really shocked by when I walk into their classroom and I hear them lecturing about those things. Yeah, they just seem so smart to me, this kind of like unattainable knowledge like they, they have it all together.
29:34	PM: What have been the most profound or like really thought provoking things you've learned in class so far?
29:44	SD: Ooo, so much. So much. Well I don't know if this answers your question. Hold on.
29:58	PM: Take your time.
30:09	SD: Sorry, he's [Sarah's partner] putting something – what was I saying? Oh..

Time	Transcription
30:13	PM: You're good.
30:15	SD: Yeah, okay, I don't know if this answers your question but some of the things that have stuck with me the most like when my professors have lectured are the things they have like said about like southeast asian history or like filipino history or like anything about that part of asia that like I felt like I hadn't learned about before because you really don't in like highschool curriculum like it's not – you don't dwell on southeast asian much unless it's like WWII, so like, yeah. .id say that stuck with me the most. [inaudible]
31:07	SD: Okay, sorry. Okay, I'm good.
31:11	PM: Are you good?
31:13	SD: Yes.
31:17	PM: Have you taken any sort of like Filipino history classes?
31:21	SD: I haven't mainly because I can't find them. Yeah. I know Professor Man teaches one over the summer but it like filled up like, I don't know. I don't know where to find them.
	PM: Okay, remind me to send you the course catalog for like, AAPI studies. There I like –
31:43	SD: Yeah, yeah.
31:44	PM I compiled a list okay I have like a document
31:46	SD: Oh my god yes send it to me
31:46	PM: This is like, this is off the record but I have like – this is off the record but like – I do have a document [laughs]
31:50	SD: [laughs]
31:51	PM: There is one called like, Pinayism about what it's like to be like, a FIlipino woman
31:56	SD: I saw that on the catalog but like, when do they offer it?
31:59	PM: It was like a first-year seminar type thing?
32:02	SD: Oh, I see.
31:03	PM: I think anyone was allowed to do it - I don't know
31:03	SD: Yeah, yeah
32:05	PM: I'll send it to you. I wanted to take it but it filled up.

Time	Transcription
32:09	SD: Aw! Yeah, that's my experience, too
32:13	PM: Okay, back to the interview [laughs]
32:13	SD: [laughs]
32:16	PM: I do want to ask, are you – what are you involved in? Like, Are you involved with KP at all [the Filipino club on campus]?
32:21	SD: I am not for like weird reasons. Mostly because i'm intimidated. I dont know why? But I should be like I know I should but i don't know its just something I was always just like scared to do, id really know how to explain it but yeah no i'm not
32:43	PM: Tell me more about that – if you're, if you're comfortable with it, obviously.
32:47	SD: UM
32:48	PM: What's intimidating about it to you?
32:49	SD: I don't know I guess cause like I didn't really have – like, the only Filipino friends that I have are like, my family. Like, I haven't really been around a lot of Filipino people who I wasn't like related to so then I don't know I'm just scared of how that interaction would play out.
33:09	PM: Wait, so, I know that you mentioned that like Arcadia is an asian-dominated community–
33:14	SD: Yeah.
33:15	PM: Were there not a lot of Filipinos in arcadia?
33:18	SD: No, there weren't, I mean, comparatively, it was mainly like east asian people, so no. There were some, like I definitely wasn't the only one, I just wasn't close with them, I hink.
33:32	PM: I see, so if not KP then, like what else are you involved in on campus? If anything.
33:37	SD: I, <i>The Guardian</i> . I think I've mentioned to you before but I do write for them. Oh yeah, sure, Well, I do write –
33:48	PM: [laughs]
33:50	SD: For the arts and entertainment section. So I do a lot of like reviews for like books and movies and basically anything that I like.

Time	Transcription
33:58	PM: Oh my gosh, what are some of like, can you give me like, a “Sarah’s Top Hits” for like, movies real quick?
34:04	SD: My favorite movies?
34:06	PM: Mhm, that you’ve written about
34:08	SD: Oh, that I wrote about? Okay, mostly i’ve written about in like a blurb for [inaudible] that I really like a lot of the movies I do or the ones, the full-length reviews that I write are, like, movies that I didn’t really enjoy, so...yeah.
34:28	PM: Sorry, can you say that last part one more time? You cut off for me.
34:24	SD: Oh, the movies that I didn’t enjoy, like, I did write a full-length review about it, so I wouldn’t say that it was my favorite movie, but I had fun writing it.
34:46	PM: [laughs]
34:52	SD: Yes.
34:53	PM: Okay, cool, so you write for the Arts & Entertainment section of <i>The Guardian</i> , and you’re also a history major –
35:00	SD: Mhm.
35:00	PM: I’m interested in your thoughts on what it’s like being, so, like, arts and humanities-based at like a stem-serv, at a stem-serving school?
35:10	SD: Mmm
35:13	PM: Sorry, first of all, would you classify UCSD as a stem-based school?
35:18	SD: Oh yeah, of course. Of course. Well there is like a really big difference in like the resources available I think to like STEM students here and like humanities students which is not something that i’ve felt like personally but im just generally aware of it. But I feel like I do surround myself with mostly like non-STEM people so that’s not something that I really feel all the time. Yeah, but when I do I know like one of my – two of my roommates are like public health majors so when they’re like talking about like ochem and like how hard that is I feel a little, like, “I’m glad I’m not part of that world”
36:04	PM: [laughs] They probably think the same thing about you, though, like when you mention, like, you know, decolonial theory, or like –
36:11	SD: Oh yeah, they definitely do. They hate reading like papers and writing essays.

Time	Transcription
36:18	PM: The audacity.
36:20	SD: I know.
36:22	PM: So moving on, I know you kind of touched on this already, but if you could give like a short list of like what you enjoy about being in college, like as a whole?
36:32	SD: Sure, I definitely like the freedom that it offers me, like just being away from home and being able to like do things whenever I want. I do like, like the fact that I can pick classes on like based on things I'm interested in instead of just things that I like have to so like all my classes like I'm genuinely excited to go to. Not all the time, sometimes, yeah, those are the two main things. I also just really like the library, like I think we have a really cool library I like hanging out there, yeah.
37:14	PM: Do you have a favorite floor?
37:17	SD: To study, 8th floor, but all the books that I like to check out for some reason are like on the 7th floor, so I do –
37:26	PM: Me too!
37:26	SD: Yeah! I think, I don't know, what's on the other floors, but I do spend some time on the 7th floor.
37:33	PM: I'm interested if, cause, I know that you told me this before, but you ARE a history major, you are taking a lot of really interesting like, prog– like, politically progressive classes. I'm wondering if, I guess, like what your family's reaction, like your parents' reaction –
37:38	SD: [laughs]
37:48	PM: Being, like, conservative, like Catholic – what like their reaction to you being a history major taking all these interesting classes was?
37:56	SD: I– I actually don't know because we don't talk about it for that reason because we have different views so then when I mention like a class like my parents won't comment on it because we don't wanna start something.
38:15	PM: Is it difficult, like when you go home and like, you wanna talk to them about something?
38:20	SD: Sometimes. Like sometimes I do wish that I could, but I don't know, it 's just something that, like I've just had to get used to so I don't really know how else it would be like between us.

Time	Transcription
38:36	PM: So, what were their initial reactions when you were like “Hey Mom, Hey Dad, I’m going to be a History major”?
38:41	SD: Oh, not great. They wanted me to be a nurse –
38:45	PM: [laughs]
38:46	SD: Yeah they especially my mom was like trying to convince me to do something, like STEM like, something in stem or STEM-adjacent for like a while. But then, like I said, like, I wanted to be a history major since like 8th grade so after a while my mom was like, okay, since I obviously still wanted to do it she was like, “I’ll just let her,” and I’m thankful for that cause like a lot of my cousins don’t have that kind of experience with their parents like even though my parents were like initially disproving like they still helped me through college and they still like are proud of me and stuff like that but some of my cousins who don’t wanna be nurses, their parents like won’t pay like help them pay for their college, they’re like, “no, you’re gonna be a nurse, or you won’t go to school at all,” so.
39:38	PM: Wow.
39:40	SD: Yeah.
39:41	PM: Wow. Well first of all, thank you for sharing that with me –
39:50	SD: Yeah, of course
39:51	PM: I’m very interested in, you said that your parents would help you pay for your cousins’ college?
39:57	SD: Oh no no no no, they’d help pay for MY college but my cousin’s parents won’t help [them] yeah.
40:01	PM: Oh, okay, sorry, I was wondering, I was like, “is this a cultural thing that I’m not like aware of?”
40:06	SD: [laughs] Oh you’re good.
40:07	PM: Like do your uncles – your titos and titas just sort of like, pool their resources for all of the kids?
40:11	SD: They should. I think that should be a thing.
40:15	PM: That would be kind of cool, not gonna lie.
40:17	SD: Yeah.

Time	Transcription
40:18	PM: Well the next section that I have here is about your first-generation identity, but as you mentioned before, you don't really subscribe to that identity.
40:28	SD: Mhm.
40:29	PM: So, I guess, one of the questions I did want to ask you was how you juggled being like a first generation student, a woman of color, and like a daughter of immigrants. But scrapping the first-generation part of it, what is it like being, or how do you juggle being a woman of color – a Filipina – a daughter of immigrants, and like, somebody who's so arts and humanities based? Like, how do you do this whole juggling act?
40:53	SD: [laughs] I– I don't know.
40:56	PM: [laughs]
40:57	SD: Like I, also, like, I wouldn't' say that I'm perfectly balanced in all those things, like I definitely have my moments where I do feel overwhelmed. Something that's helped me, though is just like really being able to talk about those experiences with people who are close to me who have had similar upbringings, like my cousins, and my friends, my boyfriend and things like that, just having that –
41:25	PM: [laughs]
41:25	SD: [laughs] – That system I think is really important.
41:30	PM: That's really awesome. How do you, or how have you found community at UCSD?
41:35	SD: You know it is – I understand why UCSD has that like “socially dead” stigma, but–
41:44	PM: Ooo – wait, wait, hold the – for all the fans out there, who aren't aware of the stigma, can you please elaborate a little bit more?
41:52	SD: So there's this thing where people call UCSD “UC Socially Dead” because they believe that all the students there are like anti-social or just really focused on school. Am I getting that right?
42:12	PM: That's what I, that's like – I think so.
42:15	SD: Yeah. So anyway, I forgot what the question was. Oh, oh wait! Okay, I remember. It was mainly just, kind of like random. Like, I met my roommates and i'm really glad that we get along because yeah, they're just really cool and I like hanging out with them. And then obviously, I met my boyfriend in college and, like, through <i>The Guardian</i> , actually, so that really helped. Yeah.

Time	Transcription
42:50	PM: How, kind of segwaying into like, I guess, advice that you would give to incoming college students, like if you had any advice to give to incoming college students, what would it be – whether it's like, housemate finding, or... Boyfriend finding...? Or like, picking a major –
43:01	SD: [laughs] I don't know if – I don't know if I could help with that second one, but –
43:08	PM: [laughs]
43:11	SD: I would just say like, take classes that you are interested in, like, there's really no rush to graduating, like you don't have to have everything figured out, that's what college is for, you know, to find out what you like, so take as many interesting classes as you can. That's really helped me. I know i've taken like random little classes, like I took a business management class... that was a bad decision, but [laughs]
43:47	PM: [laughs]
43:38	SD: Now I know.
43:41	PM: Do you, I guess like, do you have a better handle on I guess that post-grad life or like what you want now that you've taken these classes? Like, I know that you're only a second year, but do you have a better handle on like, what you wanna do after college?
43:54	SD: I'm sorry, you like cut off –
43:56	PM: Can you hear me?
44:00	SD: Yeah, it's just a little laggy. Like, I can hear you. Yeah you're good now.
44:02	PM: Okay, I was wondering if you like had a better handle on what your post-grad plans were going to be, like I know you're only a second-year, but do you sort of like understand a little bit more about what you want in the future?
44:14	SD: Yeah I do understand more than I did coming in, so basically last year. I think I know what I want but I'm still like open to changing things. I do – yeah, basically, I just wanna get my teaching credential and then go from there, and that's always been the plan, so.
44:37	PM: And you wanna be a history teacher?
44:38	SD: Yeah, yes.
44:40	PM: A US history teacher or...?
44:41	SD: Whatever they need.

Time	Transcription
44:44	PM: [laughs] Okay, well, I think that's about all the questions I have for you, if I'm being honest.
44:49	SD: Sure.
44:50	PM: And, yeah, did you have any other details that you wanted to elaborate on, or any other information you wanted to provide for your oral history?
44:58	SD: Hm. I don't think so, I think that was, that was, that was pretty good.
45:01	PM: You good?
45:02	SD: That was all of it, yeah.
45:04	PM: Okay, sweet. Okay, I'm going to stop recording now.
45:07	SD: Okay, I'm going to eat this cookie.
45:09	PM: [laughs]