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an educational failure by an institution that prides itself on preparing students for a ["lifetime of learning"](#) and ["responsible leadership."](#)

Our conversations with other students at Dartmouth illustrate the significance of Asian American Studies because it:

1. Enables all students to understand how Asian/American histories and experiences impact broader political and social systems
2. Validates Asian/American experiences & communicates that we are worthy of a space for intellectual inquiry at the College (*"How do you speak as a stakeholder in society when you're not awarded a position... in the Black/white narrative?"*)
3. Teaches students how to navigate and reclaim their space in a predominantly white institution (*"Growing up, I was raised to 'put [my] head down' and take up as little space as possible."*)
4. Helps us contextualize our individual experiences and psychic struggles within a larger colonial struggle under oppressive structures (*"Black radical tradition helped me realize I'm a colonized subject, which contributes to a lot of things I experience."*)
5. Allows us to understand the formation of Asian/American identities and diasporic subjects in relation to histories of war, empire, and US immigration, while recognizing inter-Asian and inter-ethnic solidarities (*"As a Pakistani-American, do I count as Asian American?"*)
6. Situates us in a more complete genealogy and history of migration and diaspora in the Asian Americas, examining historical, cultural, and political traditions across a global Asia. (*"I didn't know I could belong to a non-biological lineage of Asian immigrants."*)
7. Brings forward the often-erased histories of Asian American historical figures including activists against anti-imperialism and U.S. militarism (*"It was difficult for me to find info on Asian American women activists; there is some erasure that makes it seem like we don't have a history."*)
8. Establishes communities of support among faculty and students, where faculty of color can draw from their own experiences to teach and empathize with students. (*"It would be nice to learn from profs that [taught] from their own experience about your experience."*)

From these conversations, we believe that Asian American Studies is transformative for students, where the classroom is not separate from our everyday lives. We believe that Asian American Studies would raise the racial and political consciousness of all students toward a better understanding of others and themselves, in an effort to foster a more equitable society.

As a field of inter-ethnic solidarity, Asian American studies also takes comparative racial and transnational approaches to create a more encompassing curriculum, including Asian-Latinx and