

INTRODUCTION

The service learning volunteer organization I chose to work with this quarter was the American Indian Heritage School. I chose this school because I am a registered Cherokee and labeled Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). I thought that through this volunteer work, I would be able to get in touch with my lost heritage and challenge society's definition of learning disabilities. *I asked myself if I did find a path, would I be able to mend broken emotions that evolved from my deprived childhood? Was I so different from other people, isolated, detached, yearning to understand where I fit? Would doing this volunteer project contribute to myself and others? Is society able to accept, adjust, grow? What has the political climate been like? Has the political climate evolved and is there a possibility of respect for diverse groups?*

OBSERVATIONS

My volunteer work involves tutoring in a class of children classified as learning disabled. *I have long been labeled as slow, stupid, and retarded. These titles came from my early childhood education, and now follow me to college through testing from The Department of Social and Health Services' Department of Vocational Rehabilitation*