

Picture this: a college student stands before three skeletons; he must record observations about physicality of each one, then compare his results. Once the lab ends, he realizes there were no obvious phenotypic differences between the skeletons. *That's* when the professor reveals that one skeleton was of european, one of african, the third of asian descent. The student suddenly had an epiphany summing-up our nation's problem: biology has been the common excuse to back-up racist claims. However, what biology *really* tells us, is that our differences are only skin-deep because we're all *structurally* the same.

The Difference Between Us: Race--The Power of an Illusion, a movie during which students of different ethnicities typed their blood and examined their mitochondrial DNA using an electronic database. Each student then compared his/her results to a classmate's, or a random person of any descent. Prior to seeing the results, the students predicted which of their peers were most genetically similar to them; understandably, the students believed those who *looked* like them would be the most *genetically* similar. Turns out, those with the most genetic variation from each other are the ones in the same ethnic group!

Socially, the assumption that many of our genes determine race is immediately challenged by the facts presented in the film. For example, when I took biology, the teachers made it seem as if skin color is such a huge trait that is inherited through alleles from each of our parents; however, the movie tells us that skin color is, in reality, a miniscule trait inherited through tiny alleles that aren't major in any way! Our beliefs about human diversity **MUST** be continuously challenged using *facts*, because it takes people who truly care about the reform of a worldwide issue to look into the truth: the uncommon perspective.