



Super-Essays  
-Service.com

# Interview Project

## Los Angeles History



Los Angeles is described as a true cosmopolitan City comprising various religious and ethnic communities; where some of these communities have their own distinctive, vibrant life within the city. Some people perceive Los Angeles as the optimal embodiment of luxury, freedom and extravagance; essentially, the American dream. The city is perceived as filled with various lucrative opportunities at every turn.

Los Angeles, home to Hollywood's walk of fame, movers and shakers in the film, music and entertainment industry including prominent business franchises; has been construed as the land of dreams. However, to those who have had the opportunity to live in Los Angeles dismiss such sentiments as gross and misinformed exaggerations. Los Angeles is perceived on various levels; there are those who have never been to Los Angeles, well-to-do and low-income city residents.

Los Angeles is perceived as a city that is characteristic to a vicious racism and constant riots. Accordingly, similar to any other cosmopolitan city, some of these perceptions and myths have a certain degree of truth in their assertions. Given the diverse population demographics within the city and the city's huge dimensions, it has a tendency of being subjected to criticism than any other city, such as New York.

Los Angeles's diversity extends beyond ethnicity and religions; the city offers diverse scenery, architectural monuments, luxurious hotels, theaters, entertainment joints and casinos.

Critics often opt to argue about the shortcomings of the various defined aspects of the city. Such arguments entail extensive analysis of the



subject matter presented from all angles with the intention of convincing readers without disaffecting them. An understanding of the prevalent misconceptions attributable to the city of Los Angeles and its environs'; it is essential that the complexity and diversity of the city's culture and inhabitants is understood.

In the article, "New York vs. Los Angeles: L.A. is a 'heavenly place'" Jennifer Cavalluzzi describes an individual's initial approach towards Los Angeles as presenting a utopian ambience, crisp bluish ocean water, endless creamy sand beaches and sandstone cliffs presenting a beautiful scenery (Cavalluzzi). However, Los Angeles has more to offer than wealthy movie stars and the beautiful imagery. The city sprawls to incorporate various cultural dimensions and locations.

Consequently, Los Angeles is characteristic to a city-state as result of its bewildering variety of a flourishing urban mix (Cavalluzzi), with its environs comprising of agricultural activities and oil refineries. A tour around Los Angeles creates a feeling of having travelled many miles and covering wide demographic areas. This creates an impression of experiencing various diverse cultures in a span of a few blocks to one another. Particularly, people arrive from all corners of the world eager to find an opportunity to pursue their dreams and escape their tribulations.

Though people arrive in Los Angeles with positive attitude and hopeful of a good life; these aspirations are rarely met. Consequently, dreams and hopes of a good life are dashed leading to hopelessness, drug abuse and homelessness. The rampant occurrence of riots, crime and drug abuse are among the aspects that make the diverse unemployed human



capital contribute to the city's filth. Los Angeles metropolitan areas entail massive composite of ethnic communities that include Little-India, Japan-town, Little-Saigon, Korea-town, Chinatown and Watts. All these communities are integrated through a web of long numerous freeways.

Los Angeles has assumed the attributes of a polarized luxury metropolis presenting a magnificent environment for people with resources and time to spare; however, it is a miserable place for upwardly mobile people. The middle and lower class people are not accommodated in the city's lucrative ventures or sectors such as the private sector. In the article, "Poverty kept rising in Los Angeles post-recession, new data show" Gale Holland and Emily Alpert describe the increasing poverty trends among those in lower income groups (Holland and Alpert). They argue that the impacts of the recent recession have further plunged the city's larger low-income population into further economic misery. As such, they seek economic relief in public employment or lowly paid jobs, where one has to undertake more than one job to survive. Those unable to cope with the highly competitive job market have essentially become homeless, leading to an increase in the city's poor and homeless population across the city's diverse demographics (Holland and Alpert).

In order to have a more comprehensive and unbiased outlook towards the city of Los Angeles, I set out to conduct random interviews. I interviewed people with regard to their attitudes and perceptions towards life in Los Angeles. The city is diverse both in its inhabitants and social-economic classes. Through the interviews, I was able to immerse myself in their position; consequently developed an accurate account of their perceptions and attitudes towards the city.



# Comparison of Los Angeles with Other Cities

Scott Luter,

A twenty-two year old university student

Thursday, 4 P.M. Outside the lecture hall, class has just been dismissed and students mill around. He approaches carrying his laptop and books, on his left side his friend is patiently waits as Park consults with the Professor.

**Do you like L.A.?**

It depends. Not so much.

**One word to describe LA?**

(Thinks for a little)... "Dirty." Ya, dirty. In Los Angeles, streets are dirty. A lot of homeless people wondering on street.

Just awful.

I was in Germany for 10 years. Europe is very quiet, denned comparing to LA.

By dirty, I mean weird dirty, the behavior between people.

Mentality.

No respect for persons.

None yet, you cannot describe racial discrimination.

It is not distend.

Something different.

Each culture.



Each nation, different fight, crushed.

I mean, I have such feeling that many people in L.A. don't care about another nation, just about self and profit.

Ya, but it's not just stereotype, I mean...

It's real.

It's the weather, for me, it's boring.

Not raining, not snowing, in Europe, it's raining almost everyday.

## Urban Life in Los Angeles

Sabbvve Ikhous

Film Maker

Ritz-Carlton hotel. 2 p.m. He emerges from the bar, wearing a black suit. He asks me whether I have been waiting for long, as he peruses through the menu, signals the waiter and makes his order. His attention reverts to me, as he sips a glass of water waiting for my first question.

Do I like LA? Yeah, I do not like LA.

Hahaha...

Umm it's it's it's... it's a very impersonal city, its very grimmy.

A lot of issues with homelessness.

Umm...

In L.A., especially in downtown LA.



It seems like the government hasn't done a good job of what to do with that issue.

Transitional, yeah.

Because it's, it's...

It looks like it's in a process of being something greater than what it is right now.

But it hasn't happened yet,

but when I say it's transitional I think that it's something that will happen, but it's gonna be another 10 years off from seeing that kind of reality.

When I say transitional I mean it's changing from something that is what it used to be.

Into something that I think it needs to be, something better.

I think it used to be a lot worse than it used to be,

From the people that I know whose lived in this area, umm 10 years back.

They said downtown, it was a place where you just wanna work.

And... After 6 o'clock, no one was downtown; it was no night life, nothing, You just didn't wanna be downtown.

Now, though, I think it's somewhat of a night life in downtown.

And that's what you need in a city, a way of living.

To derive,

And survive.

I actually like the art district. It's right where the gold line stops at the little Tokyo, it's that area.

I grew up in a little place in New Jersey, New York,

I grew up in a hip hop place so I have an appreciation for graffiti, art, and they have very nice murals.



And umm, they give you a sense of an urban beauty that a city can have, once it cuts loose a little bit.

You have so many different people, from so many different backgrounds, different cultures, I mean you can say that there are Asians here, but what kind of Asians.

You've got Chinese, you have Japanese, you have Koreans, and you have Philippines.

I think in a sense, it is extremely diverse, I think that could be a problem too.

It's too diverse, if there is such a thing of being too diverse (laughs).

When I say it's too diverse...

## Conclusion

The responses, obtained from the interviewees, were significantly influenced by the social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. Those from lower or middle class and income groups illustrated a disliking of the city. Significantly, those who interacted with the poor and homeless on a daily basis, gave responses that indicated their misgivings and hopelessness of life in Los Angeles. Various issues such as crime, riots, drug abuse and homelessness were among the issues that emerged.

Meanwhile, the interviewees from a higher social and income group or the rich had differing perceptions of the city. Some gave responses that asserted their appreciation and satisfaction with luxurious life the city has to offer. However, they were also quick to observe that life in Los





Angeles is favorable in some parts of the city. Consequently, it is apparent that the social-economic divide in the city is huge to the extent that sections of the city are attributable to a defined social class and ethnic groups.

Super  
-Service

