

Jacob's Belonging Essay

Hello, My name is Jacob, and I'm a Black Athenian. I believe Black Athenians belong here, even though their houses get torn down like in Linnentown. In this essay, I argue that the conditions that create a sense of belonging for Black Athenians are shared meals, acts of kindness, and playing together.

Shared meals make me very happy. Earlier this year, my class gave food to homeless people. They said thank you and I could tell they felt good. Lunchtime is when you get to eat with your friends at school. When we're talking and eating together, we are happy. I learned that Mrs. Hattie Whitehead ate chicken and rice with her family in Linnentown and they felt belonging.

Acts of kindness help people to feel belonging too. When Savannah helped me in class, I felt belonging in Joy Village. Cleaning the classroom and helping Mrs. Amelia helps me feel better too. In Linnentown, they helped each other with rides to school. Taking care of each other felt really good.

Playing together is another way to feel belonging. Singing with Savannah on the swings makes me feel grateful. Going to the creek and bamboo forest with my teacher makes me want to play. Mrs. Hattie loved playing at the creek in Linnentown too!

These are the ways that shared meals, acts of kindness, and playing together have helped Black Athenians feel like they belong here. Belonging is important because it makes you safe.