

Melissa Giddings
Durham University

Snippets of Difference

Abstract

In “Snippets of Difference,” Melissa Giddings explores identity, class, and belonging as a first-generation university student. Through personal vignettes, she examines how social class and education create “the bubble,” an invisible boundary separating her from peers with greater cultural and economic capital. Each snapshot—from facing application fees to confronting classist attitudes—captures moments of isolation, awareness, and quiet resistance. Giddings challenges the view that higher education equalizes opportunity, exposing how privilege determines comfort within the system. Ultimately, “Snippets of Difference” turns reflection into critique, prompting readers to see how class shapes academic life and self-perception, and underscoring the importance of empathy and recognition in bridging social divides within academic environments.

Recommended Citation

Giddings, Melissa. “Snippets of Difference.” *Text & Type*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2025. CSU Open Journals. Available at: <https://journals.calstate.edu/textandtype/issue/view/558>

Articles printed in *Text & Type* are published by CSU Open Journals under a Creative Commons (CC) copyright license. Authors retain ownership of all rights under copyright in all versions of the article. Specifically, the journal uses a CC BY-NC-SA license. This license allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you must license the modified material under identical terms.

MELISSA GIDDINGS

Snippets of Difference

[Click here to view “Snippets of Difference”](#)

This project uncovers my personal experience as a working-class student and how that identity interacts with my first-generation status. Displayed in a website format, including photographs from a trip to LA taken this summer, I have written about moments and instances where I have felt othered or different to some of my peers at Durham University.

I hope you enjoy it.