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How Harvard Admissions Can be a Barometer of Our Deepest Divides

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A new academic year is underway, and universities nationwide await the verdict in the latest case placing affirmative action on trial.

In *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, [the plaintiffs allege](#) that Harvard discriminates against Asian applicants by holding them to a higher academic standard, and rating them poorly on personal characteristics in order to artificially suppress their rate of admission. Their solution, expressed in a suit that the plaintiffs hope will reach the US Supreme Court, is to ban the consideration of race and ethnicity in all admissions decisions.