

Connect Global Report: Week Three

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

On the third week of the program, most groups opened their sessions with an overview of the final project. Then, they engaged in activities that allowed them to develop good questions and understand how to successfully and deeply explore each other's views on the chosen topics. After the activities, most groups practiced asking good questions while they lead discussions about social and global issues. Some shared thoughts on media and gender issues while others discussed how racial issues are addressed in western countries.

Outside of the sessions, participants used the questions they prepared with their peers during the second week of the program to interview the chosen community member. Last Thursday, participants submitted the first set of videos they will use for the final projects.

Last week, 95% of the group dynamics were reported good or excellent. Some facilitators shared how they took a step back as participants gained ownership over the dialogue. During the discussions, participants reacted to their peers' differences with respect and were genuinely interested in how other countries were dealing with the current global challenges. At the end of the session, some participants expressed interest in leading the upcoming discussions and suggested topics they would love to explore with their peers.

Attendance:

Last week, we noticed an increase in the absence rate. We really appreciate your continuous efforts in reminding your participants to attend the remaining five sessions.

Week Four:

During their fourth session, students will discuss the second set of required readings about intercultural communication. Students will reflect on the challenges that affect the process of communicating across cultures. Then, they will share thoughts on their peers' final project videos. During the session, students will split into smaller groups to help each other prepare the questions they will use in the second set of interviews. While they work on their final projects and required readings, facilitators will keep encouraging students to reflect on what they have been learning throughout the program.