

## Connect Program Week 6 Report

### **Main Activities and Group Dynamics:**

This week, students picked their own discussion topics. The main objective for this week was to foster self-reflection and highlight how student engagement is progressing. After a round of reflection on the dynamics of the group so far, some students discussed global and social challenges while others reflected on gender, immigration and integration. Others practiced listening through the “What in the World” activity where they realized how important it is to listen to other perspectives without judgment. In most groups, facilitators reported how they took a step back and observed how participants are taking the lead by asking each other questions directly. During the discussions, facilitators shared several examples of students using humor and personal stories to build stronger links within the group.

In addition to the conversations, most facilitators divided the participants into smaller groups to discuss their final projects. Students had the opportunity to share details about their interviews and reflected on how they included the voices of their respective communities into the dialogue. Then, students shared thoughts about the mid-semester survey to express their opinion about their overall experience and how it is allowing them to learn from each other.

Last week, most facilitators rated the groups as “good” or “excellent”. Facilitators are reporting the positive development of the participants’ engagement and ownership over the dialogue process. With the exception of some participants who are still shy or suffer from tech issues, students are gaining more confidence as they practice active listening and asking good questions.

### **Attendance and Technology:**

With the exception of some students who missed their sessions due to national holidays, the majority of students were able to attend their sessions. Thank you so much for reminding your students to keep attending the two remaining weeks of the program.

On the technical front, things have been running smoothly for the past two weeks. A few students reported some issues that were addressed by our Technical Team effectively.

### **This Week:**

This week, participants will also lead a free-flowing conversation about a topic of their choice. The main objectives for week 7 are to encourage a thought-provoking conversation about global and social challenges. In addition to the discussions, students will also prioritize the third and final round of interviews for the Final Projects. By November 29, students should be uploading videos for their small group partners to watch. The Final Project papers are due on Friday, December 7.