

Connect Global Week 6

Main Activities and Group Dynamics

This week, some groups started their sessions with a critical thinking and self-awareness activity during which they reflected on how they addressed differences and conflicts of opinions. Others practiced listening through the “What in the World” activity where they realized the importance of listening to other perspectives without judgment. Then, groups engaged in free-flowing discussions about topics including inequality, gender issues, culture and stereotypes.

After the discussions, participants took time to thoroughly reflect on the opinions they gathered in their interviews. Most students shared details on how they brought the voices of their respective communities into the dialogue and how their community members’ opinions differ from other their peers’ collected opinions. Throughout the discussion, facilitators highly encourage participants to deeply explore differences and re-examine how they have been building their opinions about the discussed topics.

This week, most facilitators rated the groups as “good” or “excellent”. Facilitators are noticing a positive development in students’ communication and critical thinking skills. With the exception of some students who faced technical issues that affected their participation, most participants felt more comfortable sharing their opinions with no fear of judgement.

Attendance and Technology

This week, we noticed that the attendance rate has slightly increased. We appreciate your efforts in encouraging your students to attend their sessions.

Except for a few students who missed their sessions due to Internet speed, no major issues were reported by the facilitators on the technical front. Students are welcome to contact our technical support team before and during the session if they face any issues.

Next week

Next week, participants will also lead a free-flowing conversation about a topic of their choice. Students will be encouraged to engage in thought-provoking conversations about global and social challenges. By the seventh week of the program, participants are expected to gain full ownership of their discussions by driving the conversation themselves, asking one another questions, listening carefully to responses then, reflecting on how differences might affect their views.