

Connect Global: Week 2 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

This week, participants engaged in free-flowing discussions around identity and continued exploring key issues related to global challenges. Some groups discussed environment issues while others discussed values and social norms.

Throughout the discussions, facilitators encouraged students to think more thoroughly about the global & social challenges they find pressing in today's world and how they are affecting their lives. Along with the discussions, students worked on their final projects. With their groupmates, participants picked the topics they will discuss during their interviews and developed the first question they will ask their chosen community members.

Most facilitators rated the group dynamics as "good" or "excellent". Because some participants still need more time to be comfortable, students are working towards avoiding shallow conversations and engaging on a much deeper level. Facilitators also shared several instances where participants were able to express their opinions spontaneously. Most facilitators reported how the identity activities were fruitful and constructive. This reflects how students are building stronger bonds throughout the sessions.

Attendance and Technology:

Although the attendance rates are slightly higher this week, a large number of students missed their sessions. We will still count on your support to remind students to attend all sessions. **Regular attendance and participation are crucial to the dynamics of the program and its positive impact on participants.**

Similar to last week, no major technical issues were reported by facilitators or participants. A very small number of students faced some technical issues and were successfully assisted by our technical team. Thank you so much for reminding your students to login their sessions a few minutes in advance to make sure technical issues are avoided or solved before the sessions start.

Next Week

During the third week of the program, participants will dive into a group selected topic. Gender issues, culture and stereotypes are among the topics students will use to explore global challenges on a much deeper level. Enabling students to pick their topics is a way to reinforce an active learning process and to encourage them to take the lead over the dialogues. Outside of the group sessions, students will conduct their first set of interviews. With the help of the community members they selected this week, participants will record ninety-second videos that will be uploaded on Youtube by Thursday, March 28th.

Students can find more information on how to record and upload the videos in the Student Assignments Document.