

Connect Global US-MENA Final Report

Main activities and group dynamics:

On this final week of the program, facilitators encouraged students to continue leading thought-provoking discussions about the current global events, media and cultural issues. As they delved into the discussion topics, participants reflected on how they can play an active role in addressing the issues they discussed throughout the program.

Facilitators shared several instances where students took full ownership over the dialogue by asking good questions and practicing active listening. Students demonstrated a high level of interest in each other's perspectives and were very curious about how the discussed issues are affecting their respective countries. After they closed the discussions, some participants spoke about the key elements of the Final Project while others took time to reflect on the dialogue process and shared thoughts about final takeaways of the semester.

By the end of the session, students participated in the recognition activity and typed the names of peers that impacted them. This activity was an opportunity for students to show appreciation and gratitude towards each other.

This week, most facilitators rated the sessions as "Good" or "Excellent". Some described the final sessions as insightful and dynamic. Facilitators reported how quiet and shy students built confidence throughout the sessions and became more engaged in the dialogue process. Some of them also commented on the language-related progress they have made in the past eight weeks.

Attendance and technical updates:

Although a large number of students missed their sessions, most participants were able to attend the closing discussions. Thank you so much for your constant support and for reminding your students of the importance of attendance throughout the semester. On the technical front, no major issues were reported. In the exception of some students who faced internet and electricity issues, most participants were able to login and attend. Our technical support team was available to assist students who might have faced issues.

Highlights and key dates:

Now that students have completed their sessions, they will need to submit their Final Project Papers today **Friday, May 8th**. Our student Management team emailed participants individually to share the submission instructions.