

Connect Global US-MENA Week 7 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

During the seventh week of the Program, participants were encouraged to lead thought-provoking conversations about issues they find important. Some groups discussed culture and tradition while others continued conversations around the values and social norms that affect their communities. As they contributed in the discussions, participants were able to enhance their awareness of their peers' differences. Some students reported how their views on different global challenges gave them an opportunity to build stronger links. Students were fully engaged, questioning each other and going deeper and deeper into understanding each other. While they shared their personal stories, some students showed genuine curiosity and interest in their peers' stories.

In addition to the discussions, facilitators also encouraged participants to discuss their final projects in small groups. Others discussed the feedback survey and reflected on the key takeaways of their experience. Facilitators also reminded their students of the key deadlines for their Final Project Papers.

Most facilitators described this week's dynamics were "Good" or "Excellent". Some reported how breaking into smaller groups allowed some participants to break out of their resistance to engage and helped them become more comfortable. Others reported how participants lead their own conversations and enriched them with critical questions.

Attendance and Technology:

This week, we noticed that a large number of students missed their sessions. We still need your support in reminding students to attend their final sessions.

On the technical front, no major tech issues were reported. Our Technical Support team was able to support facilitators and students who faced minor technical issues.

Final Week

Next week, students will be attending their final sessions. Like every week, groups will start the sessions with icebreakers, and then they will engage in free-flowing conversations about the topic of their choice. Towards the end of the final session, participants will reflect on their overall experience and share thoughts on what they learned about themselves and from each other. Facilitators will also share information about how they can continue their cross-cultural engagement after the end of the program. Outside of the group sessions, students will be working on their Final Project Papers that are due on **Friday, May 8th**.