

Connect Global Week 2 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

This week, participants completed their second sessions. After the opening activities and summaries of the first session, they engaged around the identity activity. This activity enabled students to reflect on the most important elements of their own identity and how it impacts the way they approach certain life experiences and engage with difference. Many students shared how religion, gender and family were important elements of their identities. During the activity, some groups shared thoughts on identity threats. Halfway through the session, groups explored social and global issues on a deeper level. Some of them discussed environment while others lead free-flowing conversations about social inequalities and current international events.

Following the discussions, groups picked the topics they will discuss during their final project interviews. Participants worked collaboratively and agreed on the question they will ask their community member next week.

This week, 96% facilitators reported that the session dynamics were good or excellent. Though some students still need more time to feel comfortable and share their opinions more openly, many facilitators described how their groups made progress and shared how the identity activity enabled students to know each other on a deeper and more personal level.

Attendance:

While the majority of participants attended their sessions, we noticed a slight increase in the absence rate this week. We will need your support in reminding your students to attend the remaining sessions fully.

Next Week

During the third week of the Program, participants will dive into a group selected topic. Students will practice asking good questions and will use them to engage around each other's similarities and differences on a deeper level. 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 the virtual exchange platform by Thursday of next week.