

## Connect Global Weekly Report 2

### **Main Activities and Group Dynamics:**

Participants completed their second sessions this week. In the beginning of the session, they engaged around the identity activity during which students took time to think and identify the most important elements of their own identities and discover how they are different from the identities of their peers. While closing the activity, participants commented on how it impacted the way they approach certain life experiences and engage with difference. Then, students started planning for their final projects. Many groups decided on a topic and split into smaller groups to work collaboratively on the question they will use in the first set of final project interviews. Outside of the sessions, students identified a community member to interview.

After the final project activity, students delved into free-flowing conversations about a topic of their choice. Some groups shared thoughts on the current events and global challenges while others reflected on stereotypes, cultural misunderstanding and religion. Many facilitators reported how participants from different cultural backgrounds shared similar views on the discussed topics which helped them build stronger bonds and develop curiosity about how some issues would be approached in different parts of the world.

This week, most facilitators reported that the session dynamics were good or excellent. While some students were still taking time to get more familiar with the dialogue process, others were eager to learn about each other's differences and share their stories and opinions more openly. In one of the groups, a facilitator mentioned how the identity activity was an opportunity for a student to open up about a personal story and how he discovered important elements of his origins and roots.

### **Attendance and Technology:**

Like last week, around 80% of participants attended their sessions successfully and no major technical issues were reported. Except for a few students who had internet and video issues, the majority of students were able to log into their sessions.

### **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 portal by Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.