

Connect Program Week 7 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

The main goal for last week was to engage students in thought-provoking conversations they find important. Some groups discussed current events, conflict and global and social challenges while others talked about environment, stereotypes and cultural misunderstanding. As they contributed in the discussions, participants were able to enhance their awareness of their peers' differences. Some facilitators reported that this week was one of the best sessions of the semester. Students were fully engaged, questioning each other and going deeper and deeper into understanding each other. Beyond the discussed topics, students were able to identify the societal norms that shaped their views on topics like gender equality. Not only did students exchange their views on the topic, but they also were comfortable communicating their emotions.

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 last week's dynamics were "Good" or "Excellent". They have shared several instances where students were very open to each other's differences. Other facilitators described the positive impact of a healthy group balance where voices from different backgrounds were equally represented.

Attendance and Technology:

With the exception of some students who missed their sessions or were not able to attend their sessions fully, the majority of students were able to participate last week. **Thank you so much for reminding your students to attend the final session of the program.**

On the technical front, no major tech issues were reported. Some students dealt with internet issues or minor technical challenges. Our Technical Support team was able to solve the issues reported by students. We highly recommend that students try to login early to get technical support before their sessions start.

This week

This week students will be attending their final sessions. Groups will start the session with free-flowing conversations about the topic of their choice. Then, they will engage in Activation and Empowerment Activities that will help them continue engaging with difference and promote positive global change in the future. Using a set of suggested questions, participants will also participate in a closing recognition activity in which they share thoughts about peers they impacted them most.

Outside of the group sessions, students will be working on their Final Project Papers that are due on **Friday, December 7th.**