

Global Dialogues: Spring 2017

(A)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) What organizations or clubs are you affiliated with on campus? How do you see them contributing to your personal and academic journey? Are there any in particular that you are excited to join in the future?
- 2) What is one step you can begin doing TODAY to move you closer to your ideal life? What is a step you are planning to take in the foreseeable future?
- 3) How would your friends describe you in three words? Do your personal and professional choices reflect/correspond to them?
- 4) Who inspires you the most to become the best “you” possible?

Cross Cultural: American Influence:

- a. Sports are a universal pastime that can bring entire countries together. What are the popular sporting events in your country?
- b. Do people in your home country follow American sports teams?
- c. American influence has trickled into other countries’ cultures in ways such as music, fashion, and food. Is this melding of cultures inevitable?
- d. Is this cross calibration of culture positive or a negative?

Debate: Science and Technology:

- a. Many companies continue to perform animal testing. Is it better to risk animals than citizens when testing products?
- b. Is assisted suicide legal in your home country? Under what measures should a person be allowed or considered for euthanasia, if at all?
- c. The idea of cloning has always been controversial, is it being tested or studied in your home country? What are some pros or cons?
- d. If you had the opportunity to assure that your child would be healthy, and have every trait you desire, would you invest in a designer baby?

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(B)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) What is a unique talent you possess? How do you intend to capitalize on it over the course of your life journey?
- 2) What person do you admire the most and why? Do you see any of the same qualities within yourself?
- 3) Do you recognize a higher calling of some sort? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you believe in the power of meditation/prayer? Why or why not?

Cross Cultural: University Differences:

- a) Why would you want to go abroad to continue your education at a university? Would you ever consider doing a semester or longer abroad for your undergraduate or graduate studies?
- b) How are class structures different at different size universities or in different countries?
- c) Are clubs and other extra circular organizations prominent on your campus? Do you partake in any? Why or why not?
- d) Are alternative modes of transportation common at your university? (Bikes, skateboards, public transit)

Debate: Laws:

1. The United States has had a war on drugs for years. Is the outlawing of drugs necessary?
2. Is there a better way to combat drug use? For instance, providing treatment instead of jail time?
3. Should all drugs be banned or only specific ones? How does your home country handle the situation?
4. Should or is medicinal marijuana legal in your home country? What are the pros and cons, if any?

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(C)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) Who are the top three people you spend the most time with? Are these people enabling you to live your dreams or are they holding you back?
- 2) What is one thing you wish others knew about you? How would your journey be affected if everyone knew about it?
- 3) Is being healthy one of your life goals? If yes, how do you try to achieve it?
- 4) In your opinion what is the difference, if any, between service, generosity, charity, justice and social change? How has your definition of service changed over the years?

Cross Cultural: Stereotypes:

1. What are some common stereotypes of the United States?
2. What are the advantages to having stereotypes? Do stereotypes harm society?
3. Honestly, what are your thoughts or stereotypes about Americans/ the South? What did you think prior to living in Columbus? Have your opinions changed, for better or for worse?
4. How can people effectively change global stereotypes?

Debate: Education:

- a. Should public schools require students to learn a second language? How early should they begin teaching a secondary language and should it be one mandatory language (everyone having to learn Spanish for example)? If you had a choice, which language would you have liked to have learned in school?
- b. Public VS private VS homeschool, which method of schooling is more common in your country's education system? Is there any that is deemed as more effective than others?
- c. What are the disciplinary measures in place at schools? (i.e. paddling, suspension, detention, silent lunch) Do you think those methods are effective? What would you suggest to be implemented in place of the previously described methods?

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(D)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) Do you have a mentor? Do you believe that having a mentor is important in following your goals?
- 2) What song always puts you in a great mood regardless of the situation, why do you think that is? Do you have a song that you connected to a particular chapter of your life? Why is it that this particular song reflects that time so well?
- 3) Have you ever tried a cleanse or detox of some sort? Would that be something you want to do in the future?
- 4) Describe a time when your hard work paid off. What was the secret of your success in this particular scenario?

Cross Cultural: Health and Wellbeing of the Country:

- 1) Is your home country or region often susceptible to specific natural disasters? What is done to prevent or lessen the effects?
- 2) Are there any major diseases afflicting your country and what is being done to prevent the spread or symptoms?
- 3) Do you believe global warming is a real issue that humans have affected? If so, what can we do as a species to offset this phenomenon if anything?

Debate: Campus Safety:

1. Have you ever felt uncomfortable or threatened on campus?
2. Do you think that the student body government should handle issues like sexual assault or should cases like that be brought to the police?
3. Should conceal and carry licenses be allowed on college campuses?
4. Do you believe that professors should be armed at all times on college campuses?

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(E)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) What is the path that lead you to study here at Columbus State University?
- 2) Why did you chose your major? Did you struggle in deciding what you wanted to study or did you always know you had a calling for it?
- 3) Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- 4) What are some things that you are passionate about? How do they fit within your life plan?

Cross Cultural:

- (a) Do you think it is easier to remain connected to your native culture in some locations/places more than others? Why do you think this is?
- (b) In light of the recent election, how did other countries view our presidential election process? What does your home country do in order to elect government representatives? Is there anything you think that American politics can adjust for the future in order to have a more efficient/productive election?
- (c) What is it like attending a concert/live music performance in your country? What genres are most popular? Are ticket prices comparable to here in the United States?

Debate: Privacy:

- a) It has become more common for future employers to check the profiles of candidates online, do you feel that this is an invasion of privacy?
- b) Do you feel that certain apps like Google or Facebook which are capable of tracking your location are more helpful to society or detrimental?
- c) With computer hacking becoming more common, identities being stolen and private information being leaked regularly, do you feel that it is safe to leave valuable data online? Have you ever been a victim of a hack, how was it resolved?
- d) As of Nov. 22, over 100 million Americans are in police facial recognition databases and don't even know it—has the right to privacy been violated?

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(F)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) What are some things you are currently busy with? Will these things matter to you in a year from now? What about five years from now?
- 2) What is a major life lesson you have learned from a parent or role model? How did this lesson affect your personal journey? How do you anticipate this will have an effect in your future?
- 3) If money were non-existent and qualifications weren't necessary—what would your dream job be? You can be as creative as possible!
- 4) What kind of person do you enjoy spending time with? Why do you think that is? Describe their personality traits that make them attractive to you.

Cross Cultural: Family Structure:

- 1) Would you ever want to raise children one day in the future? If you already have, what has that experience been like for you?
- 2) Would you ever consider raising children from foster care or adopting children from another country instead of having biological children of your own? Why or why not?
- 3) If you were raising children with your partner who was of a different religion from you, how would you decide to raise your kids?
- 4) If you and your partner were from different countries, how do you think you would decide to raise your children?

Debate: Laws:

- a. What is the drinking age in your home country? Should the United States lower, raise or keep the drinking age at 21? If changed, what would the implications be?
- b. Prostitution is illegal in the United States, however it still occurs. Is prostitution legal and regulated in your home country, or banned like here in the United States?
- c. Are casinos and gambling a popular form of entertainment in your home country? How is it legalized or regulated? Do you believe this kind of behavior can lead to a negative sense of identity, like addiction?

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(G)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) How do you think couples that are together for 10+ years last when people are constantly evolving and growing individually? Do you think this is possible for you in the future? Is this something you wish for yourself? Why or why not?
- 2) What is your best quality? What is your worst? How did you take them both into account when thinking about your personal and professional goals?
- 3) If you could talk to your teenage self, what advice would you give?

Cross Cultural: Protests:

- a) Protests have been organized for a variety of reasons and demonstrated in a variety of ways, has your country had any significant protests either past or present?
- b) Would you ever decide to be in an organized protest, have you done it before? What were your motives for engaging in it?
- c) Is there a right or wrong way to protest? Explain.
- d) How does social media help or hurt protests?
- e) Can a protest by one person be as powerful as a protest by a million? Explain your reasoning.

Debate: Science and Technology:

- a) Is technology a good thing? Does it improve or degrade the quality of life? Is the quality of life in a country a direct result of the accessibility of technology?
- b) What has been the greatest technological advance of the last 3 years in the United States in your opinion? What about globally?
- c) With robotics continually making everyday life easier, do you believe we are becoming too dependent?
- d) A popular sci-fi topic is the idea of artificial intelligence; do you think if achieved, it would be a threat or a positive for humankind?

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(H)

My Journey, Our World:

- 1) If you were given one million dollars with no stipulations, what would you do with the money? How would your spending ultimately connect with your dreams/aspirations?
- 2) What is a bad habit of yours that you want to break? What are some good habits you want to cultivate?
- 3) Who makes up your support system? Who do you go to for advice? How did these people gain your trust?
- 4) What are your core values that drive your daily decisions?

Cross Cultural: Food and Water Options:

- a. What is the general idea of wasting food in your home country? Does food get thrown away or is it reused in some way?
- b. Is there a problem of obesity or of malnutrition in your home country or state?
- c. Do you try to eat or avoid GMOs? Do you buy or prefer organically grown or free-range/grass fed options?
- d. Are eating disorders (bulimia, anorexia etc.) common?
- e. Do you think that there is a worldwide water crisis? Why or why not? If so, what can we do to help lessen the effects, in your opinion?

Debate: Events:

- Beauty pageants hold a lot of stigma about judging women solely on looks. Are there valid reasons? Not all pageants are “beauty” oriented: many focus on talent and interview skills, and are rewarded with scholarships to further the woman’s education. Can pageants be relevant in society? Do you believe they help or hinder the empowerment of women? There are also male pageants, how are they viewed in your culture?
- Boxing and mixed martial arts (MMA) has become popularized in recent years motivating men and women to fight in a variety of categories. Should this form of entertainment be encouraged or more heavily regulated or banned altogether?
- In the United States horse and dog racing is popular. Is it also widely enjoyed in your home country? Should events like animal racing be allowed because they are a part of a country’s culture? Or should they be banned to protect animals from harm?

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(I)

My Journey, Our World:

1. Have you ever attended a religious service or gathering of something other than what you spiritually practice? How would you describe your own spiritual journey?
2. Describe your favorite band. What makes them so great? What does your passion for them say about you and the choices you make in your life?
3. Have you ever made the drastic decision of changing your hair, getting a tattoo/piercing etc. on a whim? What was that like—would you do it over?
4. How has college changed your views about the rest of the world?

Cross Cultural:

A. In your society are there some social behaviors which are only seen as appropriate for women? In your society are there some social behaviors which are only seen as appropriate for men? What behaviors are common for either men or women?

C. What clothing is appropriate for men but not for women and vice versa? What is appropriate for both? How is changing clothes in front of the opposite sex (like for sports) viewed in your home country?

D. In what aspects of life is it easier being a girl/woman and in what aspects is it easier being a boy/man?

E. Do you think there is a difference between friendships between a man and a woman, and a man and a man, or a woman and a woman? How do they differ?

Debate: Safety:

- 1) Have you ever felt unsafe in a public setting, like pumping gas for your car or walking a down the road in the middle of the day? What about at night? Does your gender play into your feelings on the situation?
- 2) Have you ever been in a verbal or physical altercation with a stranger? How did you handle that experience?
- 3) Do you feel that it is necessary to carry self-defense weapons (pepper spray, Tasers, whistles etc.) in your everyday life? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you value the importance of going to a self-defense class? Have you ever gone, do you want to in the future, what did you gain?