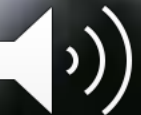


My Cross-Cultural Experience

A Presentation by Mejia, B.



What is A Cross-Cultural Experience?

- A cross-cultural experience is one where two or more different cultures are brought together at random.
- One effect of such instances is the acceptance of cultures. People will start to pick up on certain cultural traits and identify by them (Cross Cultural Communication).



My Own Cultural Values.

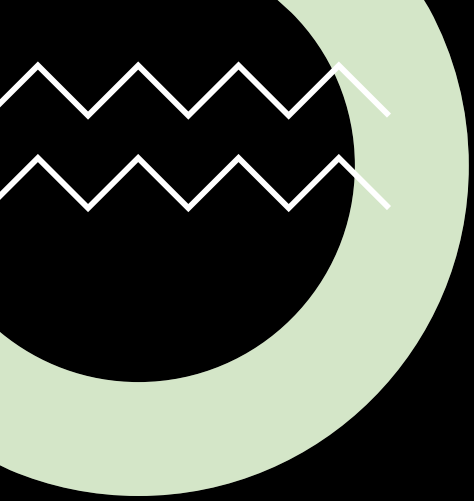
- I am Ecuadorean and so is the rest of my family. My parents immigrated to this country around 22 years ago, and while they have adopted many American values into their lifestyle, their love for Ecuador hasn't dwindled.
- Some of my own cultural values include:
 - Greeting elders as you walk into a room
 - Being a devoted Catholic
 - Being obedient and respectful to your elders
 - Dancing in proper cultural attire on holidays.
 - Eating everything that is given to you at a meal.



A Cross-Cultural Experience outside of the United States.

- While my family surrounds all of us by Ecuadorean values, no experience could ever replicate traveling to the country of origin. I have traveled to Ecuador several times and can honestly say that it is very different atmosphere, literally.
- Not only is the air fresher, but the people are much kinder. Neighbors and strangers greet one another as they walk down the block delivering items to their food shops. When I traveled to Ecuador at the age of 13, I was very uneasy at the fact that a stranger decided to start a conversation with me while we waited in line for legal documents. The New York side of me was skeptical about the approach but I quickly saw how this was the norm. I engaged with him and didn't nor regret it.





A Cross-Cultural Experience outside of the United States.

- In one instance, a research paper for my English class had me learn about tribes that still practice cannibalism. In several documentaries and interviews, the Korowai tribe of Papua New Guinea and the Aghori Tribe of India both admitted their devotion to the practice and showed no sign of shame.
- Their devotion is so deep that a member of the Aghori tribe even threaten to kill the interviewer for the so-called redundant question.



A Cross-Cultural Experience outside of New York City



- On a smaller scale, I have traveled to bordering states such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. One would think that the culture of each state wouldn't be too different from New York, but you'll be surprised.
- From my own experience, the people cherish their neighbors a lot more than my family does in New York. Neighbors are invited to barbeques and parties – a thought I saw as only being a T.V. kind of thing.



A Cross-Cultural Experience between Friends

One cross-cultural experience that was most memorable was with my friend who is from Puerto Rico. During a New Years party, she invited me to meet her family, and it was a wild event.

Everyone was singing and dancing, but most memorable was how shameless everyone was. No one had any regrets about that night and this all seemed normal to them. This was a new experience for me but one that I was glad I had.





- Growing up in an Ecuadorean household, Catholicism was a major part of our culture. So, when I was 6 years old, I could have never imagined that converting to another religion was possible for us, mainly because of the repercussions from the family.
- When I was 6 years old, my sister became a Jehovah's Witness after marrying her husband. The religion is like Catholicism in some ways, but there are numerous distinguishing points.


A Cross-Cultural Experience within my Family



What I liked from these Experience.

- What I enjoyed from my experience with other cultures was knowledge I obtained. This new information allows me to better communicate with people through language and behaviors.
- Things I enjoyed:
 - the mindless-filled fun with my Puerto Rican friends.
 - The amount of forgiveness seen in my sister's religion.
 - The unity and acceptance in neighboring states.





What I didn't like from these Experiences.

Some things that I didn't enjoy from my experience were:

- The Cannibal Tribes
- The many social and behavioral values that are rejected by my sister's religion.
- The sudden cultural exposure



Reference Page

- <https://tc2.ca/uploads/backgroundbriefs/BBCrossCulturalUnderstanding.pdf>
- Admin. "Cross Cultural Communication." *Communication Theory*, 25 Sept. 2014, www.communicationtheory.org/cross-cultural-communication.

