

# My Cross Cultural Experience

Flying the North to the South by

By: Pizzini



New York City

# Cultural Background



- Although this *Cross Cultural Experience* presentation will give mention to my ethnic culture, it will focus more on the similarities and dissimilarities between the cultures of 2 different cities; Bronx (NY) and Huntsville (AL).
- Born and raised in the South Bronx, NY (population is predominately Black and Latino)
- Grew up in a low- income community
- Mother is Puerto Rican and father is Dominican (both parents are first generation- American born citizens).
- I am a second generation- American born citizen who identifies ethnically as both African American and Hispanic.



# Language

## Hispanic Culture



- Although I was raised in a Hispanic household, where both parent's first language was Spanish, I was never taught to speak Spanish fluently.
  - It is very common- specifically in the Puerto Rican community- for parents to teach children English instead of their native tongue (Spanish). One of the main reasons for the absence in Spanish language acquisition is the fear that their children will be rejected by American society.
  - Unlike people from other countries who place emphasis and value on knowing their native language, Puerto Ricans have made acquiring the Spanish language, optional.
  - Many hispanics who are 2nd generation- American born citizens are left trying to acquire their root's native tongue at a later age (which is more difficult after passing the sensitive period of language acquisition).

# Language

## Bronx Culture

- The primary language of The Bronx is English, with the second being Spanish.
- Slang, which is classified as informal language, is heavily used in The Bronx. Here are just a few slang words used:
  - “Yo/ Yer”: A word used to get someone’s attention
  - “Brick” : A word that describes cold weather
  - “O.D”- A word/ phrase that means “ a lot” or “overdo- ing”
- The use of slang varies based on the individual/s that one converses with and/ or the setting. For instance, one may use slang when talking to a peer or family member but, they would not use slang at an interview or in any other formal setting.



# Food



- In a Hispanic household, most meals are seasoned with Adobo, Sazon, and Sofrito. It is almost a “cultural” crime for these seasonings to be absent from one’s kitchen.
- Most of the meals contain rice and beans, meat (chicken, pork, steak, etc.), a side salad and plantains.
- In my household, if we were not in the mood to eat what was served, we had the option of going to the corner store, also known as, the “Bodega,” to order food.
- Many bodegas in The Bronx are owned by Hispanics or Middle Easterners. Here, you can order sandwiches such as a typical cold cut sandwich or NYC signature sandwiches such as a *Bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich* or a *Chop Cheese sandwich*.



# Bronx Cultural

## Norms, Values, Dos and Donts

Norms	Values	Dos	Donts
<p><b>Personal Space:</b> Respect others' personal space. Do not stand/ sit too close to someone else unless there is absolutely no space to respect someone else's space.</p>	<p><b>Provide:</b> Place emphasis on the act of giving to those who are in need.</p>	<p><b>Offering:</b> When visiting others, we are often taught to never go empty handed.</p>	<p><b>Stare:</b> Blatantly staring at others in NYC is considered disrespectful</p>

# Cultural Background

## Huntsville, AL

- Small, conservative town located at the very top of Alabama.
- Predominately white
- Rural; a lot of farm land
- Middle- class residents



# Food

- In Alabama, almost all meals were pre-seasoned or seasoned with “Old Bay.”
- Similar to much of the South, Alabama is very big on fried food.
- Like NYC’s signature *Chop Cheese Sandwich*, in Alabama (sandwich actually originated in Louisiana) you’ll be able to find a *Po Boy Sandwich* which is essentially a regular hero sandwich with lettuce, tomatoes, etc. but fried shrimps are used as a substitution for cold cuts.



Caption





# Huntsville Cultural

## Norms, Values, Dos and Donts

Norms	Values	Dos	Donts
<p><b>Hunting:</b> Hunting is common in Alabama, many form bonds over this sport</p>	<p><b>Respect:</b> Place emphasis on respecting others, especially those who are older in age</p>	<p><b>Offering:</b> Offer those who are grieving or sick, a home cooked meal</p>	<p><b>Turn down help:</b> Considered rude too turn down a plate of food or assistance from others</p>