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**Talk Abroad #2 Reflection**

I think this is possibly my favorite talk abroad I have had. My partner’s name was Clifford, he lives in Haiti, and he is 28. I was not in a good place going into it with the stress of finals getting to me, but this went away quickly. I once again started with technical difficulties which definitely added to the stress, but all went well in the end. It was established quickly that Clifford was not a student. This made the first set of questions go by quickly because they only applied to me. After this, I feel conversation started to flow well. I attribute this largely to being closer in age to him than I was with previous partners. We both like the same movies and have similar hobbies so it felt very comfortable. I was very happy that he led the conversation, but didn’t dominate the conversation where it felt intimidating or like an interview.

There were minor cultural differences, but nothing major. We briefly touched on the drinking age difference in our countries but that was it. There were some parts of the conversation I am not sure I understood which worries me that I may have said something ridiculous. In any case, this is the most I think I have laughed during a talk abroad. I felt really comfortable and while I did struggle with vocabulary at times as usual, I feel ok about how I did overall. I struggled to talk about the health portion of the questions especially because I didn’t get a chance to read over the questions before I started, so for it being completely improvised, I felt ok. I also struggled with mixing up smaller words during the profession related questions. At one point he asked me a question to which I replied I don’t know. He thought I didn’t understand the question so he started to explain it as best as he could. I then told him that I understood the question, I just didn’t have an answer for it which gave us a good laugh which I think helped relax me.

I was really impressed with his patience and skill at helping me walk through the questions without dictating much of the conversation. I would strongly recommend him to anyone who needs or wants to do a talk abroad. I would like to think I have improved considerably since my first talk abroad. I feel better about my vocabulary, and I think my sentences have started to flow much better than they used to. I really enjoyed this one and I’m happy to be ending the semester on a bit of a high note.