

Robert Williams

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### Reflections on TalkAbroad Assignment

For my talkabroad assignment, I spoke to Fakhri Mabrouki. Mr. Mabrouki is from Tunisia. I believe he said he is from the capital, Tunis, but I am not sure. I thought his accent was cool as it sounded sort-of Arabic. Most of the conversation was him speaking and me nodding my head, although I was able to answer some questions and form some questions of my own. I did not understand a lot of what he said, but he was very patient and used gestures to illustrate what he was saying. I feel like I also may have unintentionally given him some misinformation such as the time and what holidays in particular I do or do not celebrate. For example, I assumed he was listing holidays Americans celebrate after I told him I enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving with my family. I just agreed with him as he listed the holidays. He then explained how he is different from most Americans in the sense that he celebrates Islamic holidays, such as Ramadan, and not Christmas. Looking back, I could have related in a way as I am also different from most Americans in the sense that I follow Biblical holidays, such as Pesach, and not Christmas. Although my Judeo-Christian faith differs from his Islamic faith, I feel like we are somewhat alike in our differences in the sense that we differ from certain mainstream American practices. I also feel like I could have had a more in-depth conversation with him as we seem to have similar interests. He said that he is interested in Egyptian history for example. I would have enjoyed

talking to him about that area of study had I been more fluent in French. Now that I think about it, I should have asked him if he has ever visited Carthage, which is near Tunis. I think it is interesting that he lives right in the center of so much ancient history. He also said he is into the symphonic metal genre, which I have some knowledge of. I recommend anyone to speak with Mr. Mabrouki for the next assignment. I found that I can understand more of what he was saying after going back and listening to the recording of our conversation, so I recommend anyone to do the same as it actually does help and could better prepare oneself for the next assignment.