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A Modern Boston Tea Party: England Loves Education, What About America?

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October 30, 2021

A Modern Boston Tea Party: England loves Education, What about America?

Between Frankie and I, there wasn't many differences in norms and habits, but there were differences in how we were raised and lifestyle. Frankie was raised in Essex but went to boarding school for most of primary and secondary education. This seemed to be the norm in the UK when you are from certain cities and counties. This was a bit of a shock to me because that is not necessarily common in the US unless you have plenty of money or need extra support. It is also a standard in the US, if you sent your children away for boarding school, you can be perceived as bad parents.

Frankie and I both value time very strongly. Both of us heavily use our calendars to schedule and plan things out. We both also like getting to things early so we aren't every late. This value is common in the UK because like in the US, both cultures perceive time is money. We both live in monochronic cultures, meaning we view time as a definitive and linear item. The part we differ is in food preference. Frankie is a flexitarian, meaning she only eats meat if she must and there is not vegetarian option, while I am a complete meat lover. From Frankie's interview, this isn't uncommon to see in the UK. She went on to say that meat consumption isn't as common in the UK compared to the US and most people consume vegetarian options more.

The interview experience was insightful on the fine detail of the differences and similarities there are between UK and US culture. IT has been difficult to spot differences straight away, besides language and food, because there are many similarities between the US and UK. After doing this interview and learning more about cultural norms and habits, it has positively affected my outlook on the UK. The UK has implicated multiple norms that are positively environmentally impactful, and norms that encourage higher education and career exploration. These norms compared to the US are more innovative and appealing.

I interviewed Frankie, a 1st year student studying History. The interview was conducted on October 30th.