

10-27-2023

The Love of Spain

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Recommended Citation

Bravo, Alondra, "The Love of Spain" (2023). *2023-24 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 3.
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Alicante, Spain
October 27th, 2023

The Love of Spain

As I interviewed my host mom and her husband I was delighted by the cultural differences, norms, and traditions. Throughout my time with them, I have taken on several new lifestyle habits including learning how to help cook traditional meals, set the table for meals, and greet new people. This type of lifestyle is different from my routine and family dynamic in the United States. At home, I normally wouldn't eat meals with my parents, but now, I enjoy the company and the conversation. My host mom normally makes traditional desserts and dishes from Spain, so mealtimes feel like a bigger event. My host family places an important emphasis on family outside of the home as well. My host mom loves spending time with her grandson, so we attend their soccer games and other activities together.

While watching people here engage with each other, I have noticed that they are a lot more direct and typically say what they're thinking. They can be very honest when it comes to opinions. They also express themselves through clothes and express their culture by dressing up for certain occasions. My host mom is incredibly fashionable and likes to keep her house neat because some of her core values include keeping a nice house, cooking and providing for her family, and caring for her grandson. In Spain, the grandmother usually takes care of the grandchildren after school and serves as the primary support within the family. In my personal experience, I grew up with a similar dynamic. My grandmother took care of everyone within my family and maintained the household, however, life in the U.S. tends to be surrounded by work with a lower emphasis on family time.

The interview experience taught me that different perspectives and cultural understanding are incredibly important. I have learned about differences that exist between my origin country, the U.S.A, and Spain, and I feel like I now have a better perspective of the culture here and a stronger sense of identity. As a Mexican girl, I have tried to immerse myself in the culture, and I have learned how to see the world with more open eyes and embrace my love of Spain.