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Interview with my Host Mother

Maria Gabriela Sanchez
Linfield College

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Maria (Gaby) Sanchez

Alicante, Spain

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Interview with my host mother

There are a lot of things that have surprised me about Spaniards, although some things I am already used to since I was born in Mexico and some of the norms and habits are the same. I chose to interview my host mom (Paqui) for this assignment. It has been very fun getting to know her and adapting to living in her home. From the moment I met her I knew I had been put with an amazing host family. Some of the norms and habits that have surprised me most are meal times, class etiquette, and lifestyle choices. Meal times in Spain are always very late because they eat breakfast fairly early, have lunch at 2:30-3 PM, and have dinner at 9:30 PM (which I have been told by other Spaniards is early and that they eat dinner around 11 PM). Class etiquette in Spain is very different than in the U.S. because they never raise their hands and talk while the teacher is giving instructions and lecture. A typical lifestyle is a lot more relaxed than in the U.S., and this is something I have really enjoyed because I don't feel as rushed and I am able to take naps during the day (sometimes).

There aren't a lot of cultural similarities between the U.S. and Spain, but there are a lot of similarities with Mexico. I do find myself having a lot in common with my host mom because we aren't picky eaters and we like a lot of different foods from around the world. Also, we have the same sleep schedule, which is pretty funny. Our outlook on life is very similar as well because we both accept bad things that happen, always help others

as much as we can, and we are both very optimistic and positive individuals. I really enjoy being around her because we get along great and I am always able to have wonderful conversations with her.

The interview experience has brought me to the conclusion that the U.S. and Spain are completely different, but I am really glad that I was given the opportunity to experience both and I have a fairly easy time adjusting to them. I just always have to be open to doing and trying new things, going out of my comfort zone and being optimistic when something doesn't go as I intended it to. Also, I have learned that individuals from both countries are very nice and are always willing to help tourists (me).