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Person to Person in Australia

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Kelly Yokoyama

Australia

March 27, 2013

Field Notes from Abroad: Person to Person in Australia

I was surprised about how serious he could be about studying, and yet go out and have fun quite often as well. I think it could be because they do not talk about studies as much as the people I am with back in America. I was also shocked by the lingo he used. Some terms I still do not understand. At one point, he told me about his feelings about gays and aboriginals and I was surprised to find that they were not as positive as I thought they would be.

We had similar outlooks on the importance of education because we both talked about our goals to make good grades and how in certain cases they should take priority. We also have similar views on the treatment of animals and the environment because we talked about how we believe that we should try to preserve them both as much as we can. As far as differences go, we did not agree on aboriginals or gays because I think I have a more positive opinion of both those groups. We also talked about relationships with others and I believe we had similar expectations and wants from the other person whether it be a friend or significant other.

I thought that Australia would be a lot more similar to America than it is, especially since I am from Hawaii, I figured the culture and mentality would be a lot more like mine. Australians are different than American sign that they are shyer, have different ideas of good manners, and know more about other countries than Americans do. This experience has made Americans seem more separated from the rest of the world than I thought. For instance, America seems much more open about other cultures than Australia. However, Australia seems to know more about other countries than Americans typically do.

Interview: Mathew Robertson (Neighbor)