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Observations in New Zealand

McKenna Musser
Linfield College

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Observations in New Zealand

The person that I interviewed for this assignment was my Kiwi Host, a newly turned 20-year-old lady who is studying Biochemistry at the University of Otago. It's her third year at Otago and she will graduate with her Bachelors of Science degree after this year. Here in New Zealand, most undergraduate degrees can be accomplished in 3 years, rather than 4 such as it is in the US. One thing that has surprised me most about studying in New Zealand is how different the study patterns are for students here. After chatting with her about this topic, we both agreed that because the structure of courses is much different here than in the US, it is easier to have more free time. At University in New Zealand, there are far fewer total assignments and exams per course, giving students a lot more free time and the ability to learn more through lecture and studying on their own.

I would say that my host and I's similarities outweigh our differences by a lot. I could not have been paired with a better Kiwi Host. We both love baking and cooking and usually bounce ideas off of each other on what foods pair well with others. We are also both wine enthusiasts... Professor Greg Jones would get along with her just as much as I do! Along with our love for creating in the kitchen, Tash and I, as well as my other flatmate, have very intellectual discussions on global issues and politics. Since coming to New Zealand, I have been asked by many Kiwis about American politics. Everyone seems to be very intrigued by America's current President... go figure! The discussions that my

flatmates and I have on politics, life, and everything in between have shown me that we hold more similarities than differences, even though we were raised in different countries.

My host's perception of the US is not as negative as I thought it would be. She said that she grew up watching American television and listening to music produced by American artists. It is safe to say that American media influences cultures across the globe, whether that be in a good way or a bad way. After asking her if she would want to travel to the US she said that now she would, because she has someone to visit. Before, she didn't really see a need or reason to take a trip to the States. I don't blame her, she already lives in one of the most naturally beautiful countries on this planet!