
2011-12 Field Notes

Field Notes from Abroad: Person to Person

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Person to Person in Australia

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Field Notes From Abroad: Person to Person in Australia

I interviewed one of my dorm mates named Nick. He is a second year (or sophomore as we say in the States) and is studying (or majoring in) Photography.

What surprised me the most about the differences between culture, morals, norms and habits between Australia and back home was that there weren't very many. Australia is a lot like the States in the sense that it's English speaking, they have a lot of the same brands of products, similar ways and standards of living among many others. What has shown to be different though, is that Australians are more laid back and have better public policies, including health care, than the US, but then again who doesn't? The University culture is different as well, where on campus accommodation is fairly scarce; not very many people live on campus in dorms. The dorms only hold about 200 people out of the thousands that go to Deakin University.

The person I interviewed and I were fairly similar and so we did not have any major differences. Though, now that I think about it there was one major difference and that was his obsessive like for Vegemite. We were similar in our laid back attitudes, family upbringings, socioeconomic status as well as morals and views on life. The schooling system is fairly similar here compared to the US as well.

This interview was interesting to me because it opened my eyes to the fact that although Australia is across the world from where I live, it is still very similar. It is crazy to think that someone living so far away from me when I'm at home lives the same way I do for the most part. This interview reminded me that everyone is human and although we may all be spread out among all the continents of the world, we are all still connected through similarities that we all sometimes look over.