But we wanted a real American! Homestays and diversity

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This session aims at providing a discussion of:

- Inclusion in homestays
- The concept of diversity in a study abroad setting
Argument:

There is a need for a revising the way study abroad programs manage the expectations of their hosts regarding who their students are.

And

There is a need for a revision of the way study abroad programs and advisors frame host cultures.
What will be examined?:

The case of Claremont McKenna

- Why do Claremont, CA families host international students?
- What is the Claremont McKenna Homestay Policy?
- What are the ideals for advising?
What will be examined?:

The case of DIS – Danish Institute for Study Abroad

- Working with diverse students
- Managing the expectations of host families
- Preparing diverse students for the homestay experience

- Working with diverse homestays
- Managing expectations of students
- Prepare homestays for the host experience
Exercise
Why do Claremont, CA families host international students?

- Because they are traveling to or have traveled to the international destination
- Because they want to learn about the culture of origin
- Because they want to meet young people

- Will they host U.S. citizens who are living abroad (Hong Kong, France, etc.) who want a host family?
- Do they ever say no to a particular nationality?
Claremont McKenna College
Homestay Policy

• CMC requires students to live with a host family when available. We want students to understand to the limited extent possible what life is like in the host country. This includes all facets of living with a local host.
• CMC makes exceptions to our policies based upon academic and/or medical needs.
• General apprehension is not a medical need.
How Do I Strive to Advise?

Ask about it.
Name it.
Talk about it.
Research it.
Share my experiences with it
Learn about it.

Understanding that:
It takes time.
It takes acceptance.
It takes understanding.
It takes me out of my comfort zone.
It can make me uncomfortable.
It is my job.

IT= race, nationality, religion, language, sexual orientation
Exercise
THI KENDES FOR RET

UNDERKASTELSE

Det danske konservativt er en retning på en bred og universel basis. Ideologien er, at man
omkring, at der skal indse, at en menneske er både, menneske og kritisk, Timeout og ikke skræmme.

En betydelig del af rettsystemet er, og slagt. De karakteriserer har

Dansk Folkeparti

G. m. Denmark College

Danskerne kommer

Musikgruppen

ERXPER
tender
Bæjerup!

Kan
Helt
en
kammerup!

DANSKERI UDEN FOR NETCAFÉ PÅ NØRREBRO

I AFTE: SKYDERI UDEN FOR NETCAFÉ PÅ NØRREBRO

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But we wanted a real American...

Is this dangerous?...

But is he a girl then?...

Are there things we can not talk about at home now?...

But we want our children to learn English...

She is a bit older than we expected...

Does he eat pork?
How do you ask the right questions?

- The host’s perception of race
- The host’s expectation to the nationality of the student
- The host’s perception of gender
- The host’s take on sexual minorities
- The host’s expectations to the age of the students
Kinning techniques

- Focus on the concrete
- Communication and reflection
- Individual before culture
The realities
Best practices for marketing material

- Use ‘real’ hosts and their students
- Make sure to have the material reflect the diversity of the hosts (lack of diversity can be an indicator of a bias towards what a host is, or show lack of diversity on the hosts)
- Help students question cultural stereotypes
Preparing students for the cultural encounter

- Emphasize the relationship building between hosts and students
- Train students in a clear an open dialogue
- Help students accept that you fail numerous times in the learning process
How do we prepare diverse hosts for the encounter with students?

- The first step is making them realise that we want them to host
- Make sure that we listen to their specific needs
- Emphasize the relationship between them and the student
- Train them in clear and open communication
- Help them accept that they will fail numerous times
Ethical dilemmas

How to we mediate the gap between the PC college atmosphere and the ‘real world’?

How do we mediate the gap between the culture that we want our students to immerse into and the complexity they will actually face?