

Samples of Student Work: Excerpts of Student Reflections Contributed to Post-COIL Meeting Discussion

On media:

- "It surprised me how few Polish-made children's films the Jagiellonian students knew of. I knew that the entertainment industry was not as big in other countries as it is in America, but I did not expect them to know so few films and tv shows that were originally made in Poland. I think in a way we kind of take for granted how many original films our country produces."
- "I found it extremely interesting that their translations of the characters don't also translate to the types of voices that are in our movies. Although it was probably an obvious fact i never thought about it, the thing that made this fact the most interesting is that they would not interpret the use of black and Hispanic voices for animal characters the same because no specific voices are not used for those characters. I think it was important to learn that their media being mostly imported means that American media doesn't only have an impact on our country but other countries as well."
- "I think the most relevant takeaway for me is seeing how even non-Americans have had an American company practically take over their childhoods. I knew Disney had a far reach, but I didn't realize it was to this extent and that's kind of terrifying. I think more people should be aware of this when it comes to big companies like Disney."

Beyond media:

- "I was so shocked to hear their opinions on guns. I know we obviously have a problem in that area here but I guess I just really never thought it was that bad from an outsiders perspective. It's such a normal thing for my friends to go to shooting ranges every weekend with their Dads like its nothing so I think I've just become very accustomed to it and forget the negative effects of guns being so common here."
- "The most relevant thing that I learned from the COIL was learning more about the Ukrainians war and the experience of the Ukrainian people during this difficult time. Although you realize how devastating this war has been through the media, I think that hearing it firsthand from people experiencing it like this puts it in a whole new perspective. We talked to one student who was originally from Ukraine, and even though she fled to Poland she described how her father stayed back to fight. We also talked to the other teacher who explained how he

and his friends saved up to get another friend that was in Ukraine a bulletproof vest. A lot of times I think that we like to think that America is in its own little bubble and that other things cannot affect us or are distanced from us, but this really showed me how it could happen anywhere."

- "I appreciated [Jagiellonian Student Name's] vulnerability and sharing with the class about what she and many people close to her are going through. Unquestionably, [Jagiellonian Student Name's] is very brave and strong. The Russia-Ukraine war is being heard through news in the United States and we've all seen terrible pictures of what Ukraine looks like right now. When viewing the news, the pictures almost seem unreal. Although it seems unreal to many of us, the crisis is affecting every person in Ukraine right now. Professor Hains put the crisis in retrospect for us by saying how the war Ukraine is facing is like the terrorist attacks of September 11th happening for 28 days. The comparison is the brutal truth of the harsh reality."
- "Not much surprised me in this meeting, but there was one thing that absolutely blew my mind. It was when we were talking about guns and Professor Hains asked if Polish police officers carry guns and no one was quite sure if they do. I find that so crazy that they had to sit for a minute and think about it. I'm so used to being well aware of what our police officers carry because there are so many instances of the position being abused that I forgot other countries are not like that."
- "When I heard of guns not being seen in Poland it was surprising to me since this is a pressing issue here and how peaceful it is to hear others do not share the experiencing the damage and harmfulness of these deadly weapons. It also gives me hope of humanity that it is not necessary to carry when a whole country doesn't use them."

General reactions:

- "I found it very interesting to hear all that they had to say about things such as their reactions to the film we had to watch and their personal stories as well. I think it would be awesome if we could do something like this in a physical classroom setting with all of us, even though that would be extremely difficult to coordinate."
- "Something I found very interesting with this zoom meeting was being able to interact with students from a different country. I thought it was an amazing opportunity to gather other students inputs on a topic we all know, Disney. The experience for me was the closest thing to studying abroad and it was very cool to see a school in Europe."
- "I think this should be offered in more classes."

- “I really enjoyed the COIL meeting. I have another class this semester that is a COIL class, so I really like having these experiences.”