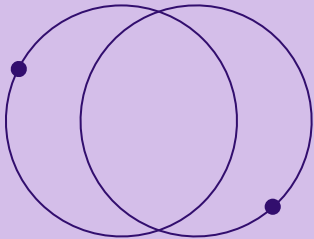

Is it possible for students with *
different values to join together in
effort on behalf of others?**

**How might this collaboration take
place?**



By Rebecca Trifari
New York University 2027

Introduction

- Originally from Rome, Italy
- First 3 years of high school in Italian high school
- 2 last years at International Baccalaureate (IB Diploma)---> global perspective, multiple languages
- Moved to the United States for college at 19
- First year in Boston, then transferred to NYU
- Majors: Creative Writing and Astrophysics
- Class of 2027 (graduating a year early)
- Currently on a semester abroad at NYU London



Can students with different values work together?

Challenges:

- Different preconceptions
- Hesitation to speak up
- Misunderstandings/language
- Pressure/comparisons
- Difficulty adapting
- Different ideas on how to work efficiently

Strategies to overcome challenges:

- Awareness of everyone's background
- Boundaries and respect
- Separate critique of ideas and critique of identity
- Curiosity over defensiveness + **practicing humility**
- University help
- Concrete shared goal**



*Example of different backgrounds:

*Italy vs United States



Italy:

- Focus on classical texts, from around the globe, theory, history, philosophical traditions
- Conservative culture, encouraged to keep controversy outside
- Memorization
- Less focus on participation, debates, creativity

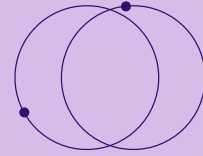
United States:

- Focus on modern issues, individual voice. Lack of teaching on ancient history or global literatures unless specific for major
- Freedom of expression, encouraged to speak up
- Not focused on memorization
- Debates, participation, original thought

Effects?



International Students vs Domestic

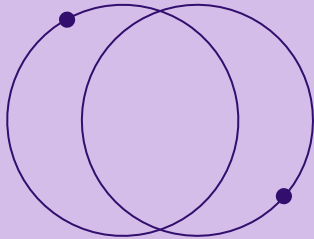


- International students are exposed to the concept of “global”, so they adapt more easily
 - Domestic students perceive international students as “different” and tend to stereotype
—> International students isolate themselves
 - Nationalities keep being a factor when choosing your social circle
 - Working together vs. living together in the same environment
 - “Significant numbers of international students in the U.S. report feeling alienated, with 88% reporting a decreased sense of belonging and 30% facing significant cultural barriers, according to a Stop AAPI Hate survey. A 2019 survey found 31% experienced discrimination based on nationality, and 41% struggled to form friendships with domestic peers”
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Conclusion

- Universities' role in improving the situation —> no improvements if universities do not step up further in fixing the issue
 - Universities are microcosm of society, if communication fails here, it fails everywhere
 - If it succeeds here, it becomes a model for the future
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Thank you!

