

Conversation Starters

American- International Peer Partnership Program

After a few meetings, you may feel like you have nothing to talk about. Here are some ideas...

Family Life

Tell me about your family. Who all lives in your home? Do you have brothers or sisters? What are their names/ ages? What do your parents do for work? Did they go to college? What do you do for fun with your family? Is it common for people in your country to keep pets? What kinds of pets are common? Do you have any pets at home? When is your birthday? How do people in your country celebrate birthdays? Are gifts given? How do people in your country celebrate marriages? What other holidays are celebrated in your country? Do you have special traditions (such as certain food you eat, or places you go) for these holidays? What does your family do for vacation? Do you travel often together?

Daily Life

What is your favorite food? What do you think of the college cafeteria food? Can you cook? What is the main meal of the day in your country? What do people in your country eat for breakfast? What are some traditional items you eat often? Describe your hometown. How many people live there? Are there many industries there? Are there many tourists? Are there mountains, rivers, or farms near your home? Do you prefer living in large cities, small towns or in the country? Describe the weather in your hometown. Do you have four distinct seasons? Does it snow heavily in the winter? What do you do in the winter? Have you ever been skiing, sledding, ice-skating? Describe the main holidays/ festivals in your home country. How do people greet each other in your country (e.g., bow, handshake, kiss)? How are the women in your country treated or expected to act in your country as compared to men? What kinds of jobs to women have?

Education

What courses are you taking/ have you taken in college that you really love or hate? Did you study at a college before you came to Marietta College? Tell me about it. Do you find the professors here easier or harder than when you were in high school or at your previous college? What foreign languages were taught in your school? What age do children start to study a foreign language? Do you speak a foreign language? How many years did you study this language? What are the differences between American education and the education in your country? What are colleges/universities like in your home country? What is the difference between a college and a university in your home country? Do college students in your country party a lot on the weekends?

Sports and Recreation

What sports do you like to play? What sports is your favorite to watch on TV? What sports are most popular in your country? Have you ever been to a professional or other important sporting event? What kinds of sports facilities do you have in your hometown for the public to use? What sports were played at your high school/ university? Have you thought about playing on a team at Marietta College (varsity or intramural?) What are your hobbies? What do you do for fun when you are at home? Do you like to play video games, cards, or board games? What is your favorite? Is there a favorite past time that is traditionally enjoyed by people in your country? Have you found anything in Marietta that is particularly interesting to do? What is the legal age to drink alcohol in your home country? Can you describe a traditional drink that you serve? What is the legal age to drive a car? Do you like to travel? Have you traveled a lot in your home country? What countries have you visited? How long did you stay there? How much of the United States have you seen? What do you still want to do in the U.S.? Where else in the world would you still like to travel? Describe your dream vacation.

Music and Entertainment

What kind of music is your most/ least favorite? Do you play a musical instrument? How long have you studied? Why did you stop playing? Would you like to hear some music traditional to my country? Would you like to know more about traditional musical instrument/ styles in my country? Do you hear American music on the radio in your home country? Who is your favorite American performer? Have you seen any really good or really bad movies lately? Have you seen many American movies before coming to the U.S? Have you seen many international films before? Normally, what kind of movies do you like the best? How does the impression you got about America in the movies compare to real life? How does the impression you got from American movies about college life compare to what you have found at Marietta College?

