

Dieu Truong Ngoc  
8th grade

Cultural Exchange Learning Program  
A choice of learning the culture

"I'm Vietnamese" I'm proud to say that in front of people, but not much American know what and where is Vietnam. I was born in Da Nang, Vietnam, I came to the United States when I was 9-year-old. When I first came everything was a blown mind to me, it was heaven because I think it was incredible to see people that don't look like me, well because of their skin color. Time moving constantly I learned English, make friends and study hard, finally, I caught up to the American lifestyle.

I remembered when I learn about the Vietnam War at an American school, I was shocked because those secondary sources in the history book were not accurate like how my grandpa told me. My Ông Nội (Grandpa), and my grand uncle both served as a military doctor during the Vietnam War, they told me many backstories during the war that was not included in those history books. I always thought that history is the learning of the past or an important event, but the truth is history is a story depends on how the people tell it. Eventually, understanding cultures should be how people see it and learn from it.

I love learning about different cultures especially learn about many different countries in Asia. I enjoyed telling my American friends about Vietnamese culture and food. I'm the type of person who always loves to ask questions because of my curiosity, and communicate with many people. When I go to college, I will do cultural studies. My biggest dream and my way to contributes to the US is to open a program of "Cultural Exchange Learning" A place where kids like me all different ethnicities and genders learn about the culture of many different countries.

I started to learn Chinese, Korean, Spanish by myself because I think that the majority of understanding many languages will understand more of that country's culture. I hope one day people will explore the culture of many different countries, to build a community with no racism. I believe that human will not judge others by their skin color, by learning the most beautiful thing of a country which is the culture, traditions, and the purest heart of our human race.

I hope that this way will blend us together so we know that there shouldn't be racism. We'll be friendly, and continue to contribute what is good for our lovely America to build a better, brighter place.