

Sophia & Brian case

Objective:

Imagine Sophia, a young immigrant from Colombia, and Brian, a native of Atlanta, Georgia. They both have perceptions and stereotypes about each other's backgrounds, shaped by media and societal narratives. The Diversity Chat Program aims to make Sophia and Brian understand each other's perspectives better and fostering mutual respect through civic matters.

Skills to Develop:

Sophia and Brian will learn to approach unfamiliar topics with an open mind, empathize with each other's experiences, and appreciate their shared responsibilities as members of the same community.

Program Phases:

1. Open Call:

- Sophia discovers the Diversity Chat Program through a poster at her college. Brian learns about it from a local community center. They both apply, listing their top issues they'd like to discuss, like cultural assimilation and the immigrant experience.

2. Drafting:

- After being paired by Polidore, Sophia writes about her challenges adapting to the American culture, while Brian describes his misconceptions about Latin America and how they formed.

- During a guidance session, Sophia & Brian learn more about structuring her thoughts to promote mutual understanding.

3. Correspondence:

- After reading Brian's composition, Sophia realizes some stereotypes he held were due to lack of exposure. She responds with anecdotes from her life that counter those



stereotypes. Brian acknowledges her perspective and shares moments when he felt like an outsider, finding common ground.

4. Conclusions:

- Polidore recognizes the importance and depth of the conversation between Sophia and Brian, highlighting their dialogue as an exemplary model of empathy and understanding.

5. Gathering:

- At a year-end mixer, Sophia meets Brian in person. They share laughter and reflections on their correspondence, realizing how much they've grown through the process.

Use of Information:

Sophia and Brian feel comfortable throughout the program, knowing her identity and personal details will be kept confidential. Later, they can provide their consent to Polidore to share their story, hoping it would inspire others.

Duration:

Over a 3-month journey, Sophia and Brian's perspectives shift, paving the way for genuine understanding and communication.

Program Administration:

Polidore regularly checks in with participants, ensuring the process remains smooth and the conversations remain respectful.

Program Evaluation:

By the end of the program, both Sophia and Brian submit feedback.

The Diversity Chat Program, symbolized by Sophia and Brian's transformative journey, stands as a testament to the power of dialogue in fostering mutual respect and understanding in diverse communities.

