**UNIV 100 K01 2023 Spring 2023**

**Breaking the Bubble**

It is natural to want to spend time with people who are like us. Shared language, culture and experiences make it easy to communicate. But there is also a lot of value in what we can learn and what new experiences and pleasures we can enjoy by spending time with people with who are different from us. We just have to push ourselves a bit to do so.

For this assignment, find another Mason Korea student whose first language is different that yours and who was born and lived for a significant amount of time in a country different from the one you were born and have lived in. Spend at least 30 minutes talking to that student and ask one another the following questions. You may wish to take brief notes either during your conversation or just after.

**Part 1:** Take turns asking your partner these questions for conversation (you can also add your own):

1. What is your favorite thing about the culture that you consider yourself as belonging to?
2. What is your least favorite thing about the culture that you consider yourself as belonging to?
3. What is something you think it would be very important for someone out this culture to know about it when he or she is living in it?
4. What is something—an experience or tradition or cultural expectation—that you think it would be very hard for someone outside of your culture truly to understand? Why?
5. How significant or insignificant do you think language and cultural differences are between your two cultures? Do these cultures have more in common that differences, or vice versa?
6. Do you consider yourself to be part of a single culture, or is your identity more complicated? Why or why not?

**Part II:** On the following page

* First, describe a few things you learned about your partner and his or her culture, cultural experiences and identify through this conversation. Pick what is most interesting to you. Why were thee parts of the conversation interesting?
* Then, reflect on how the conversation went.
  + Was it easy to share conversations and ideas, or did you find it challenging because of language and cultural difference?
  + Did you have fun having the conversation?
  + Do you think it would be fun to pursue more time with someone from outside your language or culture? Or do you think that even if you had fun having this conversation, longer times spent together would be challenging or unappealing?
  + Whether or not you plan to spend more time with this person or others outside your culture, what benefits might you get if you did so?

**Part II Essay:**

Provide your response to the questions in Part II on this page. Your whole essay should be about a page long, but you can go over if need be. As much as possible form your responses to the Part II questions into a smoothly organized essay.