

The Art of Diplomacy

The art of diplomacy is exactly that, an art form. Through discussions and debates citizens of the world have found common ground on which they use to form a connection that breaks the barriers of even the biggest of oceans, defies the stereotypes of cultures, races, and gender. Diplomacy is a delicate and precise skill that I can gladly say I have had the opportunity to use through the sisterhood of Chandler and Tullamore.

My experience of international travel and exchange with Arizona was not one without difficulty, the endless hours on a plane and the look of concussions when my colloquial language did not translate to my intended meaning, but with what struggle I had, came great reward.

By acting as a democrat I have formed friendships I could of never imagined I would make, I have grown to care for people that live thousands of miles away but feel closer to me than some people in my own town. Through listening and consideration I have formed bonds with the most unlikely of people. I am the first to admit that I can be opinionated and at times stubborn but from my travels I have encountered people who have thought me to learn and embrace all cultures that bless this world.

There are many differences between Chandler and Tullamore, the obvious one is the weather of course but there's also the life style and views on the world. Many of us have our discrepancy's and may not always agree but, our individual experiences and background make us who we are and form our opinions. Sometimes our passion for a subject or the sheer bafflement of another's behaviors can cause tension between two people who have grown up on opposite ends of the world but if I learned anything through traveling and conversing with various types of people it is that diplomacy is key.

Innovation in diplomacy is also important to keeping our international friendships alive and thankfully we live in the era of technology where we can see our friends who are thousands of miles away with the click of a button, we can share pictures and videos of our lives to all of our oversea companions with only a few taps and swipes. Through FaceTime, Facebook, and many more apps, I and many more people have found a way to test the boundary of diplomacy.

Sitting behind a screen is an easy thing to do, commenting on people from your device is as carefree as taking a walk, but face to face contact has thought my generation how to communicate with contrasting personality's by being patient and considerate. That contact would not have been possible without programs such as the Seton exchange or the STEM exchange. These exchanges have also awakened the forgotten forms of communication such as letter writing or simply sending a postcard and those gestures has secured our diplomatic friendships and encouraged them to prosper even when time seems to have caused a divide.

Beibhinn Cullen

First Place International Essay from Sister City, Tullamore, Ireland

Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities

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