

Gilman Essay #2 – Building Mutual Understanding Essay

Note: This essay has a limit of 3000 characters w/ spaces.

- I. Introduction
 - a. Share your different identities and communities
 - b. Define mutual cultural understanding in your own terms
 - c. Connect this with your chosen program

- II. Being a citizen diplomat for the U.S.
 - a. Explain what it means to be a citizen diplomat for the U.S.
 - b. List stereotypes about the U.S. or about Americans
 - c. Share how you and your participation in the program will dispel stereotypes or negative impressions about the U.S.

- III. Building mutual understanding between the U.S. and X country
 - a. Discuss the relationship between the U.S. and X country
 - b. Provide some examples of how your participation in the study abroad program will help bring intercultural understanding
 - c. Reflect on why it is important for the U.S. to have good relations with X country

- IV. Engaging with the community and creating meaningful relationships
 - a. Which communities in X country and X school do you want to seek out?
 - b. What kind of connections do you want to make in X country and in X school?
 - c. How are you going to reach out to these communities?
 - d. How will you sustain these connections when you return to the U.S.?

- V. Conclusion
 - a. Restate how you are a citizen diplomat
 - b. Explain how your program will help you build positive, better relationships between the U.S. and X country
 - c. Share how you will continue these relationships and connections once you return to the U.S.