

P.E.A.C.E. Is an acronym for

- *Pro-American*
- *Educational*
- *And*
- *Cultural*
- *Exchange*



www.peace-inc.org

The inspiration for P.E.A.C.E



Karen Herrera 17
Mexico City, MX
Diplomat



Tatiana Donoso 14
Panama City, PM
Party Planner



Sandra Mendoza 18
Arequipa, PE
Homemaker



Tamara Bravo 18
Cuenca, EC
Army brat



Patti Aguilar 18
Coatzacoalcos, MX
Fashion Model



Emilio Garza 18
Monterrey, MX
Businessman

Students hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Page

80% of our students have come from Spanish speaking countries like

MEXICO in North America



Panama in
CENTRAL
AMERICA



Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru,
Venezuela, in SOUTH AMERICA



Others have come from Europe, Africa, & Asia to learn our language & culture and share theirs.

Bosnia
China
Finland
France
Germany
Italy
Iceland
Korea



Nigeria
Georgia
Romania
Serbia
Spain
Thailand
Turkey
Vietnam

They have lived all over America

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota



- Missouri
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York

- Ohio
- Oregon
- **Pennsylvania**
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia

We are Uniting the World through our Children

*Who has a **goal** to study in another country?*

Which Country?

Why?

EXCHANGE STUDENTS
HAVE GOALS, TOO, BUT

UNLIKE INDEPENDENT STUDENTS ALSO HAVE A MISSION

*How does a **mission** differ from a **goal**?*



Goals benefit “me.”

MISSIONS BENEFIT OTHERS.

HAVING A MISSION MEANS

Having a purpose in life greater than yourself.



OUR MISSION

The foreign exchange student's mission is a **political** one -- to improve relations between countries

- **by changing hearts** — changing the way we **feel** about each other.

This is this important because when our **minds** are in charge we **solve** problems;

but when **emotions are in charge, we **create** problems -- often really big ones.**

THE PROBLEM

Are we born with **fear of the unknown & prejudice** against our differences or do we learn **prejudice**?



OBSERVING CHILDREN

They judge all by one standard.

***If someone gives them candy
they're a good person.***

Life is simple when you're three.

***But later in life we develop
an US vs. THEM mentality.***

Who most influences our view of the world and those in it?

As you grow older You learn your beliefs from the people you trust the most - your parents. All generations learn theirs the same way.



This has happened all over the world for 5000 years!



Now do you understand THE problem?

As long as we're divided by borders we repeat our mistakes.

The ***CONSEQUENCES*** of our ignorance
fosters a climate for distrust - then - **WARS**.

After WWII Realizing we could no longer ignore the World
Congress created a ***new class of ambassador*** -
— with that **heart- changing MISSION!**

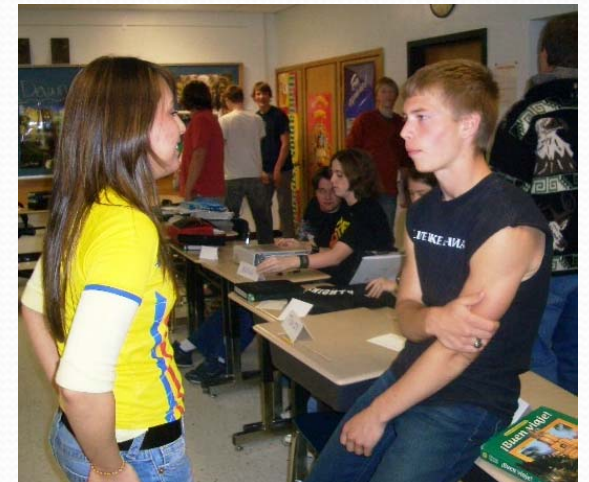
So who will make the ideal ambassador?

Children are the most open-minded, curious, and fearless

Adults have wisdom & maturity but are closed minded.

Teens, on the other hand have the combined best attributes of an adult & a child in the same body

**So Congress elected YOU to save the world -
*strange as that may sound!***



**You see, youth seeks adventure but want more.
~ It wants something to believe in ~
a cause to give itself to and a flag to follow.**

So how does it work?

Read this statement:

*“the best way to
really get to know
someone is to **live**
with them?”*

Raise your hand if you
agree with it.



THE SOLUTION: *If we bring folks to live with us and some of us go live with them and stay long enough, could we come to respect and even love each other?*

**I'm looking
for an ideal
host family**



**Can you
help me
find any?**

***Raise your hand if you have friends
that call your parents **Mom & Dad*****

THAT'S THE PERFECT HOST FAMILY!

We want them to learn American history,
economics, and government in the same
schools we learn in. In doing ; so they will
quickly gain **school spirit, too** – from



football season,
homecoming,
concerts,
clubs, plays,
and proms,
to graduation.



AND THAT'S ANOTHER FAMILY!

The ultimate prize is to send them home feeling like an AMERICAN.

From **serious HOLIDAYS** like Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, and great Presidents' birthdays, to religious festivals, Valentines Day, and even Halloween **they will experience who and what we value until they feel like one of us.**

Has this worked for us?
Have generations of teens
Become America's best
PR agents as adults when
back in their countries?



WELL, after examining only 35 years of evidence
President Ronald Reagan



said in an official 1982 proclamation that ***high school teenage ambassadors have proven to be the most effective form of diplomacy the world has ever seen!***
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton repeated the same in 2010




30 Years Later Secretary Of State Hilary Clinton Encourages Americans To Host Exchange Students



So now that you
understand the
concept, it's time
for you to please
welcome in
his/her
official capacity...
Ambassador

from _____





Unfortunately, this year we have no exchange students nearby for you to meet, but if had brought one he would talk for two minutes about himself, his family & friends in his native language.

Have you ever heard a couple of Puerto Ricans speaking at full speed in a store?

The experience is similar. **How much of what they said did you retain?**

***SINCE YOU'RE STUDYING SPANISH, WHY
DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND IT ALL?***

WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU THINK IN?

***WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO PROCESS
INFORMATION DELIVERED IN SPANISH?***

***MY STUDENT SAYS IT TOOK
[] MONTHS LIVING HERE
TO BEGIN TO THINK IN ENGLISH.***

***HOW LONG WILL TAKE YOU TO THINK IN
A NEW LANGUAGE IF YOU LIVED THERE?***

You can find the answer if we play
ARE YOU SMARTER THAN a 5th GRADER?

FIRST CATEGORY = Arithmetic



2ND GRADE ~Multiplication~

***4 hours/wk of Spanish x 40 wks/year of school
= how many hours/year studying Spanish?***

3rd GRADE: *LONG DIVISION*



**Instead of 45 minutes/day in class,
If you go to Spain or Latin America
you'll be immersed in Spanish
every waking hour (16 hrs a day).**

***How many days of immersion
equal a year of Spanish classes?***

160 hours a year of
Spanish/16 hrs a day
of immersion= ?days



4th GRADE QUESTION: ALGEBRA

***IF EVERY TEN DAYS OF IMERSION
EQUALS ONE YEAR OF SPANISH CLASS,***

***THEN HOW MANY
YEARS OF SPANISH
CLASSES WOULD
NINETY DAYS OF
IMMERSION BE LIKE?***



$$90/10=9$$

90 days of immersion equals 9 years of Spanish class!



5th GRADE: FINAL QUESTION

Your new category:
LOGIC



*IS IT **LOGICAL** TO ASSUME THAT IF WE
CAN CRAM NINE YEARS OF SPANISH
CLASSES INTO YOUR BRAIN IN THREE
MONTHS TIME THAT YOU SHOULD BE
THINKING IN SPANISH BY THEN?*


YOU WIN!!!

PLEASE STAND UP.

FACE YOUR TEACHER and SAY



***I am smarter
than a
fifth grader!***



NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO
MASTER A NEW LANGUAGE,
THE NEXT QUESTION IS:

Why is that so important?

**HOW WILL OUR EXCHANGE STUDENT
BENEFIT FROM ENGLISH MASTERY?**

Tourism? The Internet? College?

Research? Diplomacy? Media?

International Trade and Conferences?



WHY LEARN SPANISH?

In the **UNITED STATES** & **CANADA**

300,000,000 PEOPLE SPEAK ENGLISH

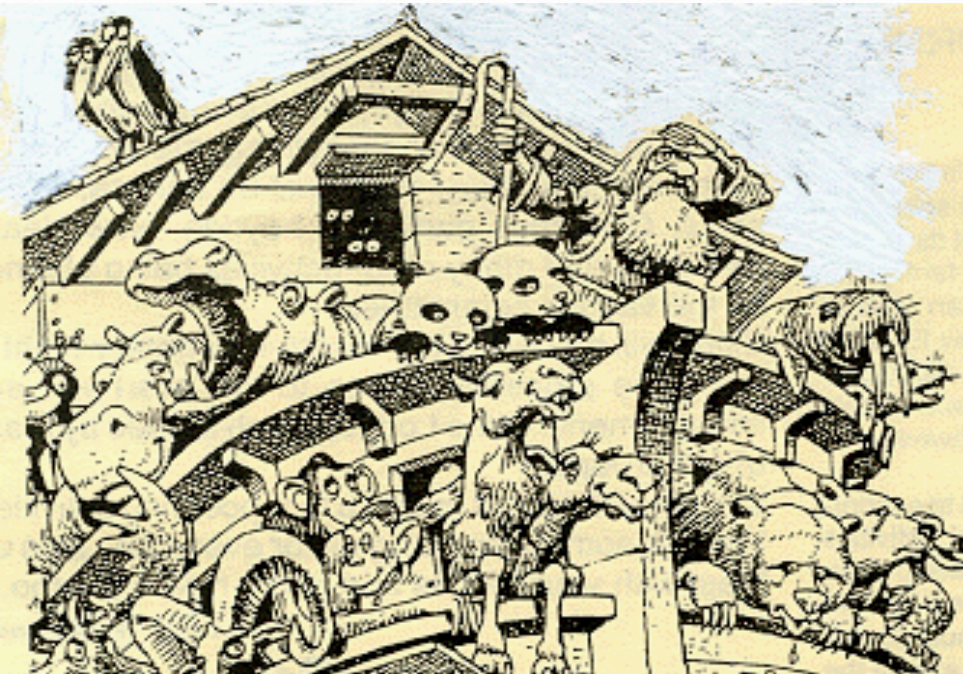
In LATIN AMERICA

(MEXICO, CENTRAL, and SOUTH AMERICA)

500,000,000 PEOPLE SPEAK SPANISH

Who's the minority group?

**In 2011 the World Population
rose to 7,011,441,929**

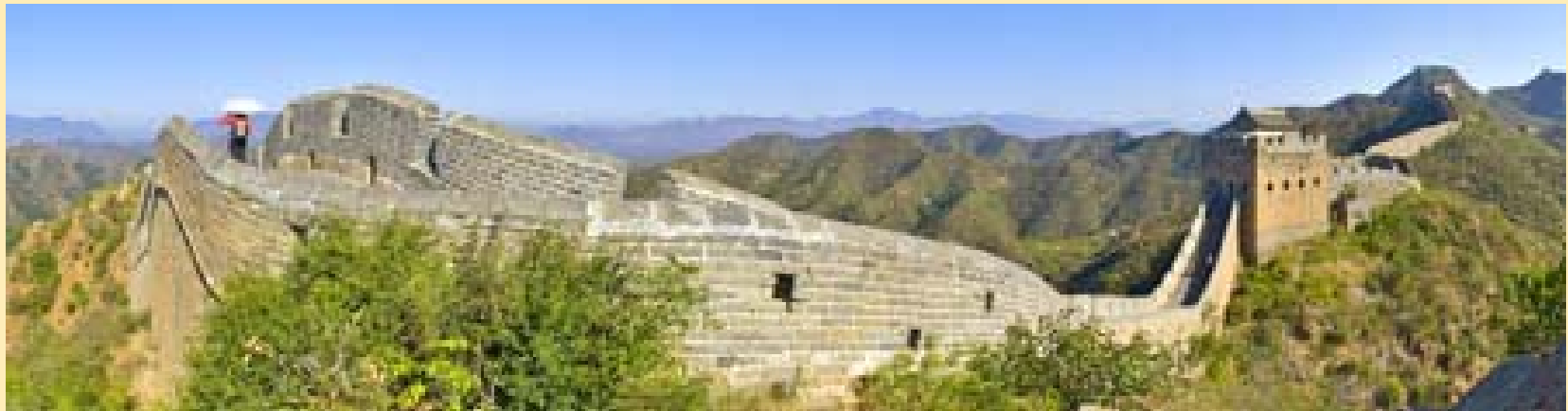


**Yes, that is seven billion souls
crowded onto the same place!**

And on the other side of the World is **CHINA**

- CHINESE POPULATION = **1,319,175,338**
- **THAT'S RIGHT. 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE!**

In order to cross the Great Wall to interact with and get to turn potential enemies into friends we need to do what?



Visit Latin America

And Experience The Culture For Yourself

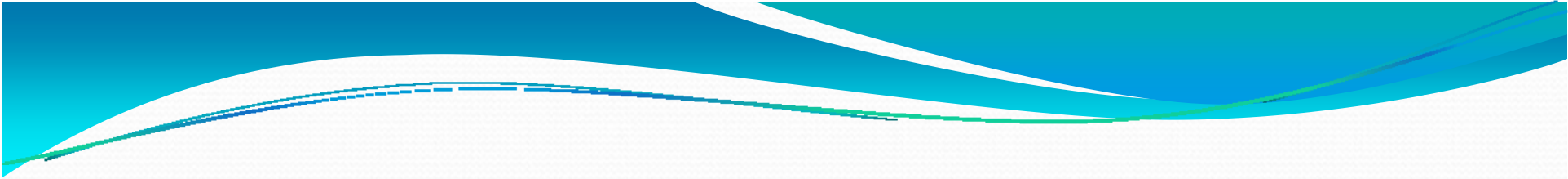




We have just finished the
travelogue featuring exciting
activities in Latin America.

Next is the story of an
American girl's summer in
Mexico. Pay close attention.

This could be you!



These are Gaby's own words,
so I needs the females in class
to take turns reading her
lines out loud so that you can
imagine yourself in her place!
Each of you can read a page.

Gaby Brennan's Summer in Mexico

When my grandfather asked if I'd like to spend my summer in Mexico as a PEACE exchange student I was a little skeptical.

I just turned 15.

I spoke no Spanish because I just took German in 9th grade.

I knew no one in the country.

I thought how weird it might be to live in a complete stranger's house.

I would feel like an intruder.

It could even be dangerous.



But then after I thought about how cool it would be to go to another country and make new friends and learn about their culture.....

COOL WON!

Arrival at Mexico City June 7, 2005



The airport was crowded with Spanish speaking people looking for friends or family.

Then there was me – the American girl -- in a crowd of Mexicans.

So many people talking in Spanish I had no clue what they were saying.



Then the people who were taking me to my new home found me.

It turned out to be my area rep, her sister who had been an exchange student and my host mom,

..but I was confused at that moment.



- Only one brand of gasoline

The ride to my new home

It was a five-hour drive to where I would be staying. I looked out the window in silence most of the way.... just taking in everything.



- Gaby and new mom

Arrival at Altamirano

11pm and the temperature is 40 c



When we got to **Altamirano** they decided to take me to dinner. It was 11 at night. I thought it a little weird to be eating this late, since if I were at home I'd be sleeping by now.

They had to order for me because I had no idea what anything was.

I glanced up on the walls of this outdoor restaurant to see little white lizards crawling up the walls. They were everywhere: school, in my house, outside – just crawling up walls. They were freaky at first but I got used to them.

Most people think their food is all spicy; but it's not. Their tacos are totally different than American tacos. They are ten times better with mostly chicken or beef in a mild sauce with rice, beans, and vegetables. Hot sauce is optional. They squeeze lime juice on meat and vegetables and eat lots of fresh fruit, ~~3.00~~.

First Sunday –Breakfast at grandma's where I met the whole extended family



•Hubert' brother's family



Host aunt, uncle, cousin



Socorro's
brother's family

Host aunt, uncle, cousins



P.E.A.C.E. Representative Cinthia Borja seems to be related to everyone I know!



The family I stayed with was the *greatest* family anyone could have chosen for me. They were kind and patient with me and helped me learn Spanish so I could communicate. They called me their Barbie Doll all the time.

My father **Hubert** is a business owner running in politics.

My Mother **Socorro** worked at a Dannon Yogurt factory.

Every day, after school had let out for summer break, I'd go with her to work. People would come to buy dairy products and I'd take their money.

My Host Family

Hubert and Socorro Albarran



My two brothers, **Hubert Jr.** and **Erick** took me and our little dog Pita on road trips to see other cities like Acapulco, Toluca, Coyuca, Wytamo, and Mexico City suburbs.

Sunday Mass in the Cathedral



Culture Shock -- Burro Parking



Catholic Mass



The Albarran's gained a daughter and she 2 brothers

After church we took a country tour

Definitely not Pennsylvania mountains



Down by the riverside



Weekly Family Reunion by the river



Host Mom, Socorro, cooks



The Brothers Albarran



family gathers in the shade



Dinner at a riverside park

Schools



My 1st day in school as I was introduced to a class a girl said, “Can she stay with us?” When the director said yes, she ran to the front, grabbed my hand, and made room for me with her friends. From that day on Aby became my very best friend.

Every morning at school everyone fought over the seats surrounding me so they could learn English and I could learn Spanish. It was fun!

Schools are different than here. Most require uniforms. From kindergarten to seniors all are in the same building. There’s a courtyard in the middle of the school. All classrooms doors open into an open corridor covered for 43 in.

Gaby's summer-long best friend Aby



**Aby's sister
& brother** **Gaby's host
brothers**

After school, my brother came to pick me up or I would go with Aby to her dance class. It was the Mexican folk dance most people would think of.

Later we'd go to her house or walk around the town and she would show me things. She was the best friend I could have made because she taught me her perspective as a young adult of her city and country. It made me learn more easily.

She also was a big influence teaching me to speak Spanish. I was slowly learning about the Mexican culture.

Most people think of Mexico as a dirty, poor country with lots of bad people in it. Even I thought that until I got there. It's really not as bad as people think. Many of the roads in small towns are made out of dirt. In the town where I lived and many other cities and towns, the roads were horribly paved with potholes everywhere.

There were bars on windows, but not like you are thinking like a prison. It's bars in swirl patterns surrounding all the windows. It's to keep the bad people out (which there really aren't many of) and unwanted stray animals.

My home town



There aren't many stores where I lived but in the middle of town were two markets. One had food such as meats, dairy products, fresh vegetables, and fruits and lots and lots of spices. I hated going to that market because the smell of the spices was so overpowering.

The other market sold clothes, toys, and jewelry. Everything is so much cheaper in stores there than here.

But there are regular department stores in bigger cities such as Mexico City, Acapulco, and others.

They had most everything we have -- McDonalds, Burger King, KFC, etc., -- but no Taco Bell!

Shopping in Altamirano



Traveling about



Deluxe Motor Coaches



Cheap Seats

Many people travel by taxis or small vans or buses. Some ride bicycles, motorbikes, or just walk. Mexico has deluxe buses that go everywhere, are cheap, and are nicer than here. Some even serve snacks!

In Mexico City on one day a week each person isn't allowed to drive their car because of the smog the vehicles create that hover over the city and created health hazards.

In some big cities murders occur but I felt safe to walk in my town. In small towns laws aren't enforced strongly. Children can start driving at a younger age. I met a girl who started driving at the age of eleven!

My Cool Brothers Hubert & Erick



Before coming I asked grandpa, “*could I have a brother, since I already have two sisters?*” My mom freaked out imagining me being in a house with teenage boys. But he said the culture is such that boys are raised to protect their sisters. No Romeos would get close to me! He was right! But we visited their friends so I could meet most of them. **They took me to awesome disco clubs and dance parties!**



After I had to come home two months later, I realize just how much I got attached to my new family and friends. I consider them my actual family. I call them frequently to let them know I love them and wish I could go back. I hear their voices over the phone and just want to cry. Things I would never imagine missing, I really do miss.

There are many miles between us yet I will always be in their hearts and they in mine. I think of all the memories we had, just wishing I could relive them or make more 'cause I miss them.

Re-united

We became re-united three years later as Aby became an exchange student for the school year in PA.



Aby is so cool! We are inseparable sisters even though we live apart.

Now my friends here in the U.S. want desperately to go to Mexico because I talk about this beautiful country so often, but I have so many good friends there – *more than my hometown!* ⁴⁹

I definitely recommend more people go to Mexico or surrounding Spanish speaking countries.

I encourage them to want to go on an exchange program and they will love other country's cultures.

You get a chance to experience another culture in a whole other country. You get to see all the beautiful sights and some strange ones. Many things are different in another country but it's so much fun learning about and how things are by experiencing them. A tourist could never feel or even imagine it.

Epilogue

I want more people to see that being an exchange student in a completely different country is not what many think it is like. It's amazing and educational a - once in a lifetime chance. It's life changing and thrilling - the best memory of my life!



Gaby Brennan

Finally, if you guys thought you got left out, here's a tale about one of our international sons.



Emilio Garza 18
Monterrey, MX
Now A Successful
Businessman

Emilio was in our home in transition

While we were in limbo between our 1st and 2nd student with Y.E.S. that provided our first 3 students, he had called their home office to report that his little host brother was sleeping on the floor so that Emilio would have a bed! Y.E.S. asked if we would go get him. We kept him until they found a place in Michigan. He wrote me monthly 'back in the day' before email. He asked me to correct his spelling & grammar and sent us this photo at Christmas showing the Snoopy ornament we sent him. When we started PEACE he ask to be our representative in Monterrey, MX. He's still our son. He finally married in 2005. They have a son from her 1st marriage and one of theirs.



We Welcome All Kinds of
Students & Hosts to Apply.

Join Our Ever-growing
International Family Now
And Have An Adventure
Of Your Own!!!!