

Inter-school Activity for FTGC, Fall 2020: Jessica Culver (Arkansas) and Ahlam Yassin (New Jersey)

<p>Fellows' Names</p> <p>Jessica Culver Ahlam Yassin</p>	<p>Essential Question for Inter-School Activity</p> <p>How is your geographic location influencing your experience with the pandemic and the 2020 election?</p> <p>Although we are in different geographic areas, what similarities do we share? How do these similarities showcase global connections between our different schools?</p> <p>How does this inter-school activity help us build the importance of building global connections?</p> <p>What can we learn from a classroom located far away from our own geographic area and within a community very different from our own?</p>
<p>Student Introductions: Description and Tool Used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Padlet ● Videos made from each school ● Class discussions ● Google Maps (to illustrate to students where each community is) ● Class questions ● UN Sustainable Development Goal 17: Building Partnerships (to help students build a partnership with a community thousands of miles away) ● Emails, phone calls, and Zooms between Mrs. Culver and Mrs. 	<p>Class, grade level, and number of students in each class</p> <p>11th Grade - Civics [Jessica Culver, 40 students in multiple class periods, in-person] 11th Grade - World History [Ahlam Yassin, 30 students learning virtually]</p>

Yassin to set up the activities.

Number of times students interact, amount of class time devoted to those interactions, and summary explanation of those interactions.

1. October 27th: The Padlet goes live and students begin to fill it out. Approximately 15-20 minutes per class period (Mrs. Culver has class periods in-person throughout the day, Mrs. Yassin has virtual classes) is spent with Padlet. On day 1 Mrs. Culver on this day explains to her classes that they will be doing their 2020 Election Unit while virtually interacting with a class from New Jersey, to understand connections, similarities, and differences, in how Arkansas and New Jersey students are experiencing both the election and the pandemic. Mrs. Yassin virtually introduces students to these same concepts and showcases to students how far apart Arkansas and New Jersey are, yet we still have many global connections between each other.
2. October 28th-November 3rd: Students from both Arkansas and New Jersey continue to make connections with the Padlet. 15-20 minutes per day is spent on this during a school day, approximately. Students focus on a wide range of topics to make connections, including, but not limited to, items such as:
 - How are our laws similar and/or different, such as laws regarding driving and the driving age? (This was one the teenagers were very interested in, since driving is a big occasion for many teenagers.)
 - What animals live in our geographic areas, and what animals do you encounter in your surrounding land? This was one the teenagers found interesting, as many of the students in Arkansas live on vast acreage and spend much time hunting animals (deer, squirrel, turkey, etc.), while New Jersey students had a more urban environment and less hunting of animals.
 - What are the cultural connections we can make between our two schools, such as: What are the hobbies of students in Arkansas versus New Jersey? What do people do for fun in their free time? (New Jersey students were quite interested in Arkansas students' frequent muddin' adventures, and we made sure our video to our New Jersey friends showcased what Arkansas muddin' was.) What food/restaurants do teenagers in New Jersey have, versus what do Arkansas students have access to?
 - What is the political climate like in New Jersey versus Arkansas? Students learned that New Jersey was categorized as a blue state, and Arkansas was categorized as a red state. Arkansas students spent two weeks during this inter-school activity watching parts of the presidential debate (the second one), the vice presidential debate, learning about the Electoral

College, studying Electoral College maps, learning the difference between the Democrat and Republican parties, studying the role of the executive branch, and understanding the 2020 election cycle (including local races in Arkansas as well).

- How has coronavirus impacted your geographic area? Students learned most of New Jersey was virtually learning, while most of Arkansas was in-person learning. Students discussed and learned about the different mask mandates, how sports and extra-curricular activities were impacted by the pandemic in the different geographic regions, and how coronavirus was impacting each state as a whole.

3. November 5th: Mrs. Culver's class makes the video for the New Jersey students, wrapping up the inter-school activity, and shares it with Mrs. Yassin to show her students.
4. Week of November 9th-13th: Mrs. Yassin makes the video, with her students virtually, to share with Mrs. Culver's students.
5. Week of November 16th-20th: Mrs. Culver and Mrs. Yassin have a follow-up to evaluate the inter-school activity.

Which Spotlight Challenge resource(s) will you use for this project? What's happening in your town using a local newspaper guide: www.newspapermap.com. Mrs. Culver used this resource with a class before beginning the inter-school activity.

Ahlam used the UN SDG research assignment to make connections to Goal 17. Students independently researched a UN SDG, created their own "canva" informational poster on the goal. The exchange between the students in New Jersey and Arkansas is a prime example of SDG 17, fostering partnerships at the national level. Students were able to see that even though one is a "blue state", while the other is "red state", teens are teens and although the activities might be different they have similar interests. Students were initially fascinated with one another and then started getting to know each other, some exchanging social media accounts.

In addition to the SDG research project, students examined the 2020 Presidential election, examined the sway of votes in different states and each candidates' policy standing.

What technology tools will you use?

- Padlet

What content resources will you use?

- Videos made from each school. Mrs. Culver made hers with Screencastify and an iPhone and sent to Mrs. Yassin via email. Mrs. Yassin will do the same, although will likely use different video-making tools since her students are virtual.
- Google Maps (to illustrate to students where each community is)
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 17: Building Partnerships (to help students build a partnership with a community thousands of miles away)
- Emails, phone calls, and Zooms between Mrs. Culver and Mrs. Yassin to set up the activities
- iMovie
- Google Classroom
- Zoom

Mrs. Culver used the following content resources to connect issues of the election and pandemic year to the inter-school activity:

- *270 to Win and showcasing red states versus blue states: <https://www.270towin.com/>
- *270 to Win Historical Maps: <https://www.270towin.com/historical-presidential-elections/>
- *Democrats vs. Republicans explained: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbjAzcp7jjo>
- *Google Maps
- * What is a Democrat or a Republican <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHLiqCGZmcY&t=2s> (I used the video from this source that showcased Democrats, and the one that showcased Republicans)
- *Pictures Ahlam or students posted to the Padlet showcasing their community.
- *Pictures Jessica or students posted to the Padlet showcasing their community.
- *The second presidential debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPiofmZGb8o&t=1773s>
- *The vice presidential debate: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_G0ia3JOVs
- *Schoolhouse Rock Electoral College song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oylFqf3XH24>
- *A video Mrs. Culver made for her students explaining the Electoral College
- *Election Week news on ABC, NBC, and CBS
- *Election Week news on Internet websites showing information on the election
- *Election and executive branch worksheets that Mrs. Culver made for her students.

Mrs. Yassin used the following with her students:

- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- Informational posters created using www.canva.com
- 2020 election coverage included:
 - www.270towin.com
 - Choice Program [Values Activity](#)
 - [Candidates Positions on Policy Issues](#)
 - [In-Depth Research Analysis](#)

<p>How will students be grouped?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full class discussion ● Individual work on Padlet 	<p>What formative assessments will you use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The ending showcase videos. 	
<p>How will global education be part of this inter-school activity? Make explicit references to models, concepts, UN SDG etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Examining the notion of “culture” ● UN Development Goal 17 (Building and developing partnerships) ● Comparing and contrasting one’s own geographic and cultural area to another geographic and cultural area. ● Communication skills across space and time ● Studying the 2020 election cycle in a rural versus urban environment ● Studying the 2020 pandemic in a rural versus urban environment ● Concepts of differing cultures holding similarities ● Concepts of our similarities being larger than our differences, building partnerships and connections. ● Examining different views while able to acknowledge, accept, and respect those different views. ● Debating in a healthy, respectful manner that acknowledges our global world and appreciates differences 		
<p>Describe the students’ products and learning. These are samples from the Padlet.</p>		
<p>1. What do you guys get to do for fun? I know that things are already limited since corona, but what did you guys do beforehand? Personally, there isn't a lot of attractions here in Arkansas mainly state parks. We only have a handful of malls and stuff like that. Another thing, can you guys walk to places? Here, unless you live in the central part of time you can</p>	<p>2. My family social distance a lot. I don't go out to big groups of people. MY family goes and hike a lot in the Ozark Mountains. That is our way of distancing. I go to work still, everyday and see hundreds of people. But the election is very different due to ways to vote. Living in a rural town is easy to social distance, but many don't. (From Arkansas)</p>	<p>3. The pandemic has caused many things to be cancelled this year for me, but I'm glad to say I'm well. The election has caused mixed views in my location. Other than that, I miss how the world was before covid :(. (From New Jersey)</p> <p>Students response from Arkansas: I'm sorry</p>

<p>almost never just walk from one place to another and instead have to drive everywhere. Thanks for reading and I hope everything is well! -Brooke (Arkansas)</p> <p>Student response from New Jersey: Hi, Brooke! For fun we can go to malls and parks nearby. We also have a lot of restaurants. For your second question, depending on where you are going, it may be walking distance. There's stores in my town that are walking distance, but if you need to go somewhere else, like the mall, it is not walking distance because you have to go over the highway.</p>	<p>Not a whole lot has changed, besides the fact that we have to wear mask in school and in public places preferably. You can easily spread out here and interact with each other. I don't really care much for the virus and living in Arkansas makes it a lot easier to go about our daily lives. As far as the election I've mainly just saw Trump signs, and since our state is republican, I'm almost 99% sure that Trump will win election in my personal opinion. Hope Everyone's having a great day THANKS FOR READING :) (Also from Arkansas)</p> <p>Response from New Jersey: My geographic location influencing my experience with COVID because I have been in the house more, my dance season has been put on hold, and some of my family members have been sick because of this. However I have noticed that because everyone has been inside more a lot more information about politics is online and on T.V. more.</p>	<p>that so many things have had to be cancelled for you I understand what it's like because we have had a lot of band things cancelled. -Evelyn</p>
<p>4. Hi! My name is Uzma! COVID has impacted my family a lot because we have seen firsthand the effects it has had on people we know. It has also impacted our education system because we shifted so quickly to online school. I preferred school in person, but it isn't safe for my family because two people of the six of us are high risk. The teachers try their best to make things more fun online, which I appreciate!</p>	<p>5. Covid has had a huge impact on me personally. Ive lost family to covid due to being in an area (NJ/NYC) and the cases were super high. I opted out for full time online and barley see family because of fear. Virtual school isn't that bad and feels pretty normal as much as wearing a mask feels. New Jersey is a blue state, and most of the people I know support Biden. I feel that overall the pandemic has a huge influence on who people vote for president/support- Aimee (From New Jersey)</p>	<p>6. Is there a night and day difference between what you would be doing in school versus what you're doing online? In Ozark, AR our online school is basically exactly our in person school, but virtual. - Josh (Arkansas)</p> <p>Answering this requires a story so here we are: At the beginning of lockdown, when we were sophomores, the workload and</p>

I picked up a hobby this year, baking, which has made being home a bit easier and more fun. It relieves my stress. I made an Instagram for it and it has gained more followers than I expected, haha!

NJ is a blue state, so a lot of people support Biden. I'm interested to see who will win the election and how the election will impact us. (From New Jersey)

Student response from Arkansas: I LOVE BAKING! I love your page so much! -ashlyn

Student response back from New Jersey: AWW THANK YOU, ASHLYN!!!! THAT MADE MY DAY 🥺💕

7. Our geographic location influenced me in many ways due to my geographic location. Our state was one of the most hardest hit, and since our school is unique with many people across the county interacting with one another, it makes us all more vulnerable to COVID. Because of this, online school makes me much at ease. I wish we were in school, and I wish everything was just normal again. NJ is a really fun state and considering our very close proximity to NYC, there is a lot to do! Let's not even get

Thank you for answering! I myself agree more with democratic views so if I were old enough to vote It would probably be Biden. I agree with you about handling covid I feel like Trump hasn't done his best even though this is a situation that needs someone to do their best. I don't hate Trump tho he has done some good in the past but I think he was pretty disrespectful in the first debate. I just believe we should do more for people to be seen as equal and Biden and Kamala seem to care more about that. I also think a woman should have a right over her own body and make decisions for herself with Biden's running mate Kamala agrees with that (Response from Arkansas)

8. Yuh we do live a rural life. I grew up on a farm and covid really didn't affect me. We raise Poultry House and a couple hundred head of cattle on 1,100 acres. I could never imagine living in such an urban city. I want to visit NY or NJ soon in my life. add my snap (From Arkansas)

It is really interesting to me that you guys live rurally, too! I honestly find your guys' lifestyle fascinating! (From New Jersey)

due dates were crazy. Normally in school we would start a large assignment, discuss it and finish it at home. However, on online schooling we received larger assignments in shorter time spans and lost out on that discussion learning. This led to many students becoming uninterested in the work assigned and motivation amongst the student body fell rapidly. However, now that students and teachers are on the same page, it's slowly getting better. We still get large assignments but we have more time to finish them and the teachers are more understanding of individual situations. Hope that answers it. (Response from New Jersey)

9. Here in New Jersey, quarantine felt like it started so unexpectedly and so fast that it felt unreal. We're close to NYC and seeing COVID cases increase rapidly there was shocking to think that we're so close to a main site where people are getting infected. Online school was difficult to get the hang on at first and it still continues to be a challenge some days. It's a different experience and new way of learning that today is necessary under these circumstances. (From New Jersey)

<p>into the election; I feel that it makes our country much more divided than united. -Naimatee</p> <p>I wish everything was normal again too, I'm personally not a fan of online school:/ It is causing lots of chaos and really dividing the country:((From Arkansas)</p>		<p>I can see how the virtual learning can be difficult sometimes. I am doing on site learning. It's crazy to see how different our experiences have been compared to you guys in NJ. (From Arkansas)</p>
<p>Fellows' Reflection on the activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What went well? ● What can be tuned? ● Other observations and field notes? 	<p>Reflection A: From Mrs. Culver</p> <p>What went well was student enthusiasm. I had no idea the students would be SO incredibly excited to talk to a New Jersey classroom. Many of my students have never traveled out of our immediate area (or only traveled to neighboring states), so speaking to students from New Jersey seemed like a world away to them! This was many of my students first interactions with an urban area, as a city such as Little Rock is the largest city they may have encountered. What also went well was my students acceptance of, and interest in, people who were different from themselves. To have students from New Jersey and Arkansas find so many similarities was inspiring in this divisive time.</p> <p>What can be tuned is knowing how to take the Padlet and video interactions and continue them further, turning them into something even more meaningful.</p>	<p>Reflection B: From Mrs. Yassin</p> <p>I will echo Jessica's comments on how enthusiastic the students were to interact with one another. Some of my students were even saying, "class trip to Arkansas!", at the end of the few days Padlet exchange.</p> <p>During their US I and US II courses students studied the ethnoregional makeup of the US and were able to relate this content knowledge to the cultural differences in terms of how each region lived their daily lives. Isn't that fascinating? Being able to really exchange with one other - two very different regions, and find the awesome similarities between these groups of kids? I think this would be the same sense received when traveling abroad. In fact, this could definitely be duplicated on an international level.</p>

Other observations and field notes are that I could NOT have done this without an amazing partner. Thank you, Ahlam, for trusting this “Ozark Hillbilly” gal with your students!

I’m so proud of both groups for putting themselves out there and really wanting to share their lives with one another.

What needed to be tuned? Figuring out scheduling where all students could interact was difficult because we are on a block schedule and there is also a time difference, which made a live meeting tricky.

Other field notes include that this partnership really worked so well. Jessica’s energy radiated even over the distance from New Jersey to Arkansas!