

MOUA, YING

Ying is a junior at D.C. Everest Senior High School. He was born in Thailand in 1988 and has three older sisters. He likes to stay home and watch his nieces and nephews.

My name is Ying Moua, I was born in Thailand in 1988 and I have three older sisters. I am a sophomore at D.C. Everest.

How do you feel about being a Hmong guy/girl? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

One advantage of being Hmong is the food. A disadvantage is getting chicken poop on my clothes when we kill them for weddings. Another disadvantage is being discriminated against.

What do you know about your traditions and culture and how do you feel about them? (For instance marriage, shamanism, the language...)

I know that if you take a girl out late, her parents can force you to marry her.

How was the transition from Laos and Thailand to America?

I don't remember much because I was only a kid then.

How do you feel about being Americanized?

Being Americanized is okay. My parents feel the same way, but they still miss the old ways of life back in Laos.

Do you ever feel torn or trapped between the two cultures? How so?

I don't feel trapped, but it's hard living between two cultures because people expect so much out of you; especially older relatives and parents.

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Which culture do you feel is more beneficial and why?

I can't decide which culture is more beneficial; both I guess.

Are your parents more Americanized or stuck in the traditional way of life? And how do you feel about that?

They're in-between and I respect their decisions and beliefs.

What have your parents taught you and how will you use it?

They have taught me to think for myself and to be respectful of others.

Is education important to you? Why or why not?

Yes, education is everything. With education, you can earn a job and support your family. That is why it is important.

What are your expectations and your parent's expectations for your future?

My expectations are to become super rich! My parents want me to be successful and happy.

At school or anywhere else have you ever felt peer pressure to do something? What was it and did you follow through?

Yes, definitely, but I don't remember exactly what it was about or what happened.

What advice would you give to someone who wanted help on dealing with racial issues?

I would say just ignore people who discriminate. They'll come around sooner or later.

Why do people discriminate because of ethnicity?

People discriminate because they're dumb and don't know any better. They think they're better than everyone else and this isn't true at all.

How do you and your parents feel about interracial dating?

My parents disapprove of it.

A stereotype is that all Hmong are in gangs. How do you feel about that? Have you ever been asked to join and why do people join?

I think this stereotype is false because not all of us are in gangs. I have never been asked to join and I don't plan on it either. I think people join to be cool but really it's dumb.

What do you see in the future for the Hmong? What are your hopes for them?

I believe we will be successful in the future. I hope that we don't lose our traditions because it's what separates us from other cultures. And I am proud to be Hmong because we're different.