



## Wang Vang

*Wang Vang came to America in 2004.  
He knows how to speak English, Thai, and Hmong.  
He now resides in Wausau.*

***What is your name?***

Wang.

***How old are you?***

16.

***Where were you born?***

Ban Vinai.

***Where did you live in Thailand?***

Wat Tham Krabok.

***How long did you live in Thailand?***

Maybe 12 or 13 years.

***Do you have any brothers or sisters?***

Yes.

***How many?***

Six sisters.

***Do you have any brothers?***

They live too far away and there's too many, so I don't know them.

***What was life like in Thailand?***

It's just like living here. It's not as cold as it is over here. It's hot.

***Did you go to school in Thailand?***

Yes, I learned Thai.

***What do you plan to do in the future?***

Coming from Thailand, maybe become a mechanic.

***Did you do that back in Thailand?***

No, but if we broke anything, we could just fix it.

***What sort of things don't you like about the Hmong tradition?***

I like everything about it.

***How many languages can you speak?***

Hmong, Thai and English.

***Which is hardest?***

English.

***Do you think the Hmong culture or the American culture is better?***

I think the Hmong culture is better.

***How old were you when you came to America?***

Sixteen. We just got here on July 7th, 2004.

***Who helped you during your time of arrival?***

My uncle.

***Why did your family decide to move to America?***

I don't know. The elders said that we had a sponsor and were now able to come to America, so we came.

***Did you want to come?***

Yes.

***Did you know a lot of people in the U.S. before coming?***

No, I only knew some.



***What did you think when you first got here?***

I was happy. I got the chance to see this country so I was happy.

***What do you think about the kids in America?***

They're nice, but some of them are naughty.

***What do you think about the naughty kids then?***

If I mind my own business, it's okay. But if they're naughty, I want to make them behave. Back in Thailand they fight a lot. It's like, if they don't bother me, then I won't bother them.

***What was the weather like in Thailand?***

It's hot. It gets hot inside even with a fan on.

***How about the weather over here?***

If there's a fan on, it's not that bad.

***Do you like Thailand or America better?***

I liked living in Thailand better. If we didn't get sponsored to come here and there weren't people coming to America, I would've liked to stay there. Everyone's moving here so if we were to live in Thailand, there wouldn't be anything to do.

***Would you like to get married?***

No.

***You want to finish school first?***

Yes.

***How many years did you attend school in Thailand?***

Probably eight or nine years.

***Did you like the school?***

Yes, but it's not like the schools over here.

***Do you like the American style of clothing or the style of clothing in Thailand better?***

I like the American style of clothes better. The Hmong clothes aren't good to wear. I just don't like it.

***Would you go back to Thailand if you could?***

If my people went back, I would go back, but if they don't go back, then I wouldn't go either.