**My Cultural Perspective**

I have seen many different cultural aspects both related to Spanish and also related to the rest of the world. I have spent time in Juarez and Palomas, Mexico, both very close to the border of the United States. I have been invited into the homes of some of the people and even at their poorest they were so incredibly happy and all they wanted to do was offer us, as their guests, food. There is where I saw where some families have come from and overcome including poverty.

I have traveled to Rennes, France in Northern France along with Belgium, I did not speak any French and this aspect was very difficult for me to understand. I think learning a language is not only about acquiring it, but also learning how to communicate non-verbally in order to be an effective traveler. My brother acquired French there and I was able to enter in his host families home. This was the first time that I realized that we are all the same, they had different cultural expectations when it came to eating and speaking, but it looked like the same family table that we come to in the United States.

I have been to Alberta and Quebec, Canada, although Alberta is very similar to the United States, Quebec was quite different, the fact that the Capital of Canada is Quebec and is bilingual in French and English astounded me. I see the United States moving toward what Quebec looked like, but with Spanish. Essentially this would be taking Spanglish to a whole new level!

Puerto Rico, a part of the United States commonwealth amazed me. This country essentially acts as both a state and a country. There is a lot more poverty than I had anticipated, but less than that I saw in Mexico. This is an absolutely beautiful country full of people who don't necessarily know English, but know many of the English words due to importing of United States products.

I studied Spanish in Malaga, Spain which is in Southern Spain. I lived the life of Castellanos, more specifically Malagueños, for three months. I learned about not only the Spanish culture, but about multiple other culture along the way. I have now visited France, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, and Ireland. I made connections from all over the world. I learned what it takes to fully acquire a language. I now feel confident in communicating in Spanish and understand that we are bound to make mistakes, but it is vital that we learn from these mistakes in order to improve, there are many English speakers that cannot speak proper English, so I feel that the same rules apply to all languages.

I see the United States moving in the direction where students will be expected to know Spanish if not at least another language. Across Europe and in China they are expected to learn English and as if they aren't successful enough at learning English most of them have acquired 1-5 other languages apart from their own and from English. Yes, some people might say that learning English is all you need in order to succeed right now worldwide, and this may be the truth, however our population has changed the rates of Hispanic people entering the United States is increasing exponentially.