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Lesson 6: Vision, Core Values, & Strategy
2/26/2007

Class Summary:

This class opened with a discussion on the Midterm Evaluations via Skype, which began March 6 and end March 26. After the presentations, we discussed Penn State's Mission Statement, and some students expressed that it conflicts with the University's actions, most notably when it comes to censorship. This led into discussions on Pennsylvania's diversity, and further into world issues such as Universal Collectivism and the "youth surge" of developing nations.

Response:

While I greatly enjoyed the discussions for this class, I did not particularly agree on some of the opinions that Pennsylvania is a "racist" state. This however, is greatly due to the fact that I live outside of Philadelphia, which is considerably more diverse than the stretch from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh. The state is old and predominantly white, but I am not sure if calling Pennsylvania poor is entirely accurate. I feel the distribution of wealth is typical for any state in the country that has a considerable amount of farmland. Still, it would be nice to see Central PA developed more by encouraging manufacturing industries to move here.

Analysis:

I grew up in a school district that was zoned to include mixed-income neighborhoods. Some were extremely wealthy, others weren't so lucky; but that didn't exclude you from a particular group of friends. Being only minutes from Philadelphia enabled residents of the area to appreciate its diversity and not judge someone based on their economic status. Unfortunately I can't speak for how it is in Pittsburgh, but the generalizations that arose during the class discussion were not at all representative of Pennsylvania from my perspective.

Sound-bite:

"Envisioning a collective global community starts by reevaluating our day-to-day activities as an individual."