



Terra [ter-uh]

*noun*  
earth.

# David:

You want to introduce yourself a little?

And Advertising major and I'm graphics.

I have been travelling around a lot. I have three passports and I have experienced many different cultures. Felipe...

And you haven't touched the snow yet.

So, here's my first question. It's going to be more like a conversation than an interrogation. If you were to go to France, you are a foreigner to the French people. If they ask you where you from, what would you say?

When they ask me where I'm from they usually want to know where my parents are from or biologically where I'm from. You can't really tell who the real American people are. So you can say that you are American or Californian. Have you ever thought about your identity before?

# Felipe:

My name is Felipe, I go to Art Center as well. I live on the bottom floor, David lives on the top.

Yes

Let's just say I haven't travelled really. I don't have a passport and I've never taken a passport picture.

No, I still haven't seen the snow. The closest I've been to snow is touching the shaved ice outside of the ice rink.

Normally I would say I'm American. But I guess I would more or less say I'm Mexican, I'm from Mexico but I haven't lived in Mexico nor was I born there. So I identify more as American.

My identity? I consider myself pretty Californian man, you know, I'm pretty white washed as far as being Mexican or anything

I can say that I'm Swedish as well as American because I was born here but I still say, I only lived in Korea for 6 years, 7 years in US and 8-9 years in Sweden but I still say I'm Korean because I think that's what I am. I became what I am in Sweden but...

I think that kind of shows how multi-cultural America is.

Are you eligible for the Mexican citizenship by the way?

What about your parents, do they Mexican nationalities?

like that I barely can speak Spanish, I understand it but I'm pretty Californian, born and raised. That's what I am.

I think it's just a bit different. When people ask what I am, if they are asking my ethnicity that's when I say I'm Mexican but it's not what I identify as if someone asks me 'what are you?' I mean, we said earlier I'm American. If I lived in Mexico that I'd say I'm Mexican. Race-wise, if they want to get down to it I'll be like 'what race am I? I'm Mexican.'

Well, there just are lotta races here. American really is not a race. It's just a mix of cultures here.

No

My dad is. A little did I talk to him I know he's probably eligible for it since he was born there. From last time I remember when we were little he got his citizenship (US) but I don't think that takes away from you still being a Mexican citizen I just think it's kind of like dual citizenship. My mom's American though. Well, I mean she's

If you were to apply for that citizenship though, what do you have to do? Just live there for a certain amount of time?

So when are you planning to take the passport photo?

The reason why I ask you to be in this conversation is, you are in a way not opposite but you have different background and I think this conversation could be interesting to...

I actually did tell you earlier that I wouldn't ask this cheesy question but I think I should. If Mexico were to play a soccer game against America, which team would you cheer for?

Really? What if you were at an American household where you have your fellow American friends?

Mexican but she was born here so she's pretty much American as far as the credentials go.

Probably the same like any country. I don't know. I think it's the same.

When I get some more money, man. When I get some more loan money that says I can go to Japan finally.

I'm pretty much the true sign of Californian nature. I say dude and all that dumb shit. No I don't play beer pong. I actually hate that stuff. I have a strong hatred for certain American Californian ways but it's one of the stereotypical sides of being Californian, it's one of the images associated with it.

Mexico.

Still Mexico. Granted soccer is the only

Mexico is pretty good.

The thing I appreciate about Europe is that although the countries are small but they are adjacent to so many different countries with their own languages and cultures. I believe that it's given me a wider perspective towards the other cultures that I encounter. This is just what I think, I'm not pointing at you but in general although there are many cultures mixed in this country, the general population got this idea that if you are not one of them, they got fear, or segregate them to either 'enemy or friendly' or 1 or 0, kind of a digital idea behind it.

People seem to want to team up here in some way. Why do you think that happens?

sport that I like, I played it when I was little.

Mexico is pretty damn good. I mean I wouldn't root it for the heritage, 'oh, I'm Mexican, I gotta root for Mexico.' It's like someone being from San Diego saying 'I have to root for the Chargers.' You like what you like. I've just liked Mexico since I was little, World Cup and all that stuff.

Well, it kind of comes down to that saying, people always scared of what's different. If you live in a really white populated area, and some foreign guy moves there, they'll be like 'who the hell's this guy? Why the hell did he move here?' You are not going to identify with them in any way so it's totally different to you. You feel comfortable with what you know.

I think it comes back to the comfort issue again. Based off what I've seen in other

places, you come from one country granted there's a language barrier; you're probably only going to hang out with your own kind here. Because you can communicate with them, have the same ethnic background, same cultural things, maybe same humor, and just same general knowledge about stuff. I'm Mexican but like I said I'm white-washed, Americanized. I find myself pretty welcoming to talk to different people, you know. Like I said, I did a bunch of sales jobs so I think I can pretty much talk to anyone. But at the same point I wouldn't go hang around with some ghetto black dudes. I don't identify with them, their interests, their hobbies, the way they talk and the way they talk, you know?

Something that I've noticed here is that there's a term 'fob' which I've never heard of until I got here. Fresh off the boat or something?

Yeah, fob. I'm Mexican so if I were like a true Mexican and brown as hell and dress like a typical, you could say migrant worker look, they'd call me a beaner. We all have our words.

I don't think it's only the language barrier. Where ever you are from especially at Art Center, they tend to isolate themselves from different cultures and just build up their own societies. They don't blend in and just tend to be with people from the same country or the background.

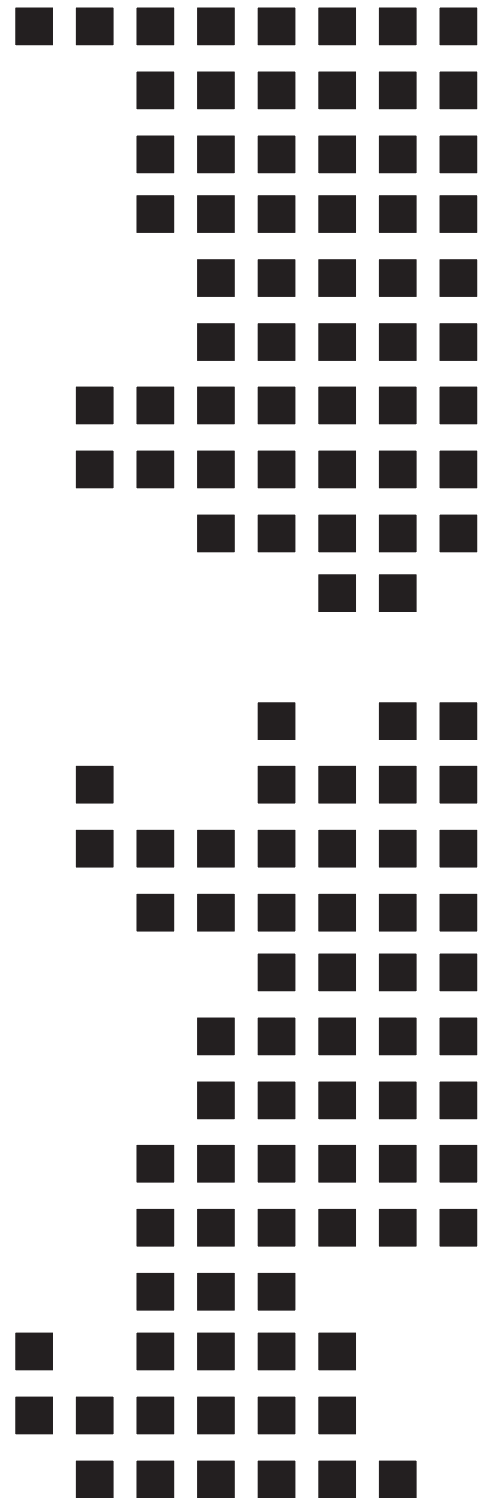
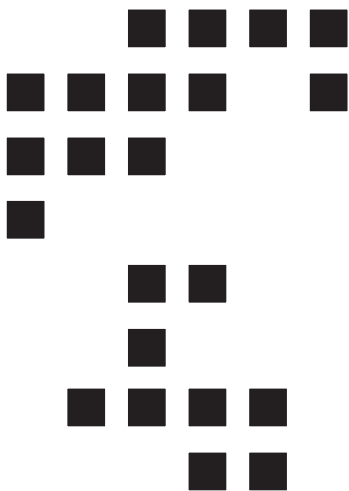
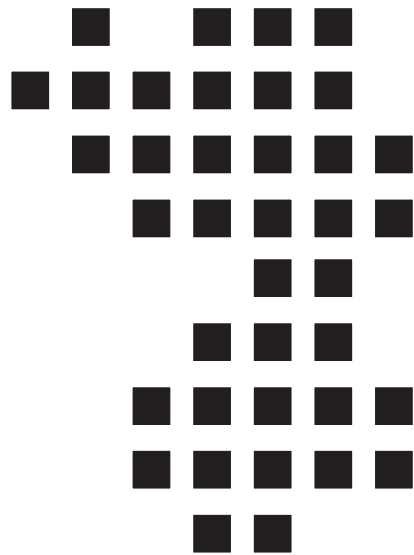
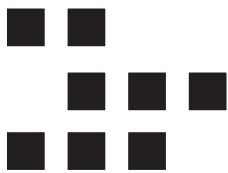
At the same point, that gets me kind of mad. I didn't really meet the Asians here until I came here. I've never met them

before. In San Diego, my idea of Asians was Philipino people because that's what there lot of in San Diego is. Granted the military bases there. I really couldn't identify and see if there are any Chinese or Japanese people but my general idea was Philipino. In high school, they always used to hang out together. I could tell because they'll have like the Dragonball-Z hair and Honda patches on their back packs and all the girls hung around with them. And they all look the same, they acted the same. To me it was kind of like why don't you talk to other people like you feel comfortable with them but you should talk to other people, like don't just hang around with the Asian people. It gets me mad like or It either made me feel like are other people not good enough for you? Or comes back to saying is it the comfort issue. Granted whatever way you look at it, to me my opinion was like oh what, we are not good for you? You only want to hang with them?

Maybe they are not ballsy enough to talk to people from different cultures.

But they are probably born here. They are speaking English to each other. So I don't know if it's that they lived in certain communities where there are just mostly Asian populated schools and since they went to high school like everyone in their school is Asian and I don't know how many white or black people were there but I've been to areas where it's like everyone who lives there is like a certain race.

I just hang around with anybody who's





cool. I don't care where they from.

I'm here in California. I want to meet people from California and I want to go to Californian places. In that way I experience California. For some people, the only time they speak English is when they speak to their instructors. They just hang around with themselves, go to their own places. They are physically here in California but they aren't really.

I think we have the same opinion about it. How different cultures have difficulty blending in to each other.

It comes down to personality and interest and just the way you act, talk, what you are into, the way you carry yourself I guess. I don't know if I can say this but when I used to smoke a lot. I used to consider myself as one of those guys. So I identified with that group of people and that life style.

It's like they find the world of their culture where ever they may be in California. Like Thai person is going to Thai town and hanging out there.

There's not like little Mexico over here or whatever so I don't go hang out in little Mexico. Even if I went I wouldn't feel comfortable there because it's not what I identify with. Racially, I do but interest-wise, what is there for me, nothing. When we were talking about certain groups only going to certain areas and hanging out there, granted it might be the same way when they look at me like certain bars I want to go to or clubs where lots of people dress the way I do or have similar interests in tattoos

and visually we are all aesthetically kind of the same, you know? They might see it the same way. 'Oh that dude only likes to hang out with those kinds of people.' I think I'm pretty rounded to do everything. I've been dragged to like k-town and other places, I don't care, if I have a good time, I mean in the same instance I encourage them to get the hell out of their little group and go try something different. I mean, you'd be uncomfortable for a sec maybe but if you have more fun in meeting new people you will have different experiences.

My theory is that every single person is a diplomat. You didn't choose to be what you are. The reason why I think you should have pride in yourself is because...

If I act weird, they aren't going to see me as 'David's a weird dude'; it's going to build up to 'the Korean dudes are fucked up' so I always tell myself that I'm a diplomat and try to give good name for the Asians. I consider myself as Terran, terra being the earth in Latin. I'm from this planet and am just seeking for the harmony within everybody.

What I think is funny about that though, we see foreigners coming here and dressing in a certain way, and we'd really want to tell them 'that's not cool here in America.' I wonder in the same instance if we went to another country in the way we think what's cool and how they'd look at us there. I think that'd be pretty interesting to find out.

That makes sense. Being proud...

Yeah you gotta have pride in yourself.

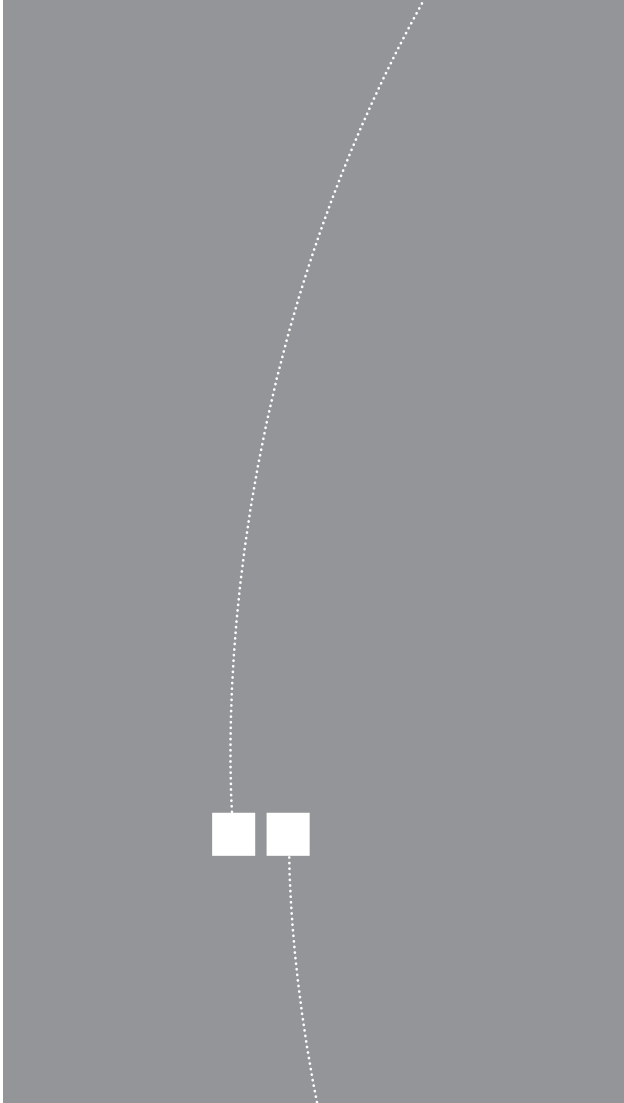
I wouldn't say for the most part. I've seen many people that are just ashamed of their own culture or... it's kind of like escapism.

But they admit that they screwed up. It wasn't even their generation but the people even nowadays pay visit to the camps and learn that this was completely wrong. In a way that's pride. They are not escaping from what had happened. They take the responsibility and try to build it from there to better their reputation. The new generation in Germany accepts what they were born with and they are working on it to make it better. I think they are a good example. They take the responsibility and reconstituting the reputation and the stereotype or the whole identity.

I think everyone for the most part does. You gotta be happy with who you are.

Well, if you are German then you are like 'oh I'm ashamed that Nazis were killing people.' You could be ashamed of things that have happened where it's just like yeah we fucked up, you know?

I get that.



## LSTN

A workshop with Joshua Trees and  
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