

INTERVIEW WITH A REAL AMERICAN : )

*We just finished the interview from Jordan, where he interviewed me. I picked him because I was genuinely interested in a person who lived here in the USA their entire live. I picked Jordan, because I think he is a nice guy and I think he has a pretty good understanding of the politics and the Scholar system in America. I think I did this interview more for myself to get a deeper understanding of how it is living here in the USA, which I can't get without growing up here.*

*Me: So now just make it clear for the people reading this, what is your name, your age, we do you go to school, where have you been born, and where have your parents been born? Who are you?*

*We talked about this question before, so Jordan answered confidently.*

*Jordan: My name is Jordan Lee, I was born here in America, I am currently 16 years old and a Junior student at Lincoln Highschool. My parents are born in Vietnam and immigrated here though.*

*Me: That is pretty cool!*

*You live in America your entire life, so do you like your country, America?*

*Jordan: No! chuckles*

*I was not really surprised from this answer. I did somewhat ask him this question before, but I wanted to get more explanation.*

*Me: Is there a particular reason for that?*

*Jordan: The reason I don't like my country, is that there are too many political problems. Some of them are easily solvable but the problem is that many people choose not to solve them or are corrupted. For example, the most recent incident was the arguing about the banning of abortions. People would bring religious ideas into the Law-making, which was against our constitution.*

*Now, they are saying that we should ban abortion, when in reality they are bringing their religious ideals into it, which is the complete opposite of what we as a country believe in.*

*Another reason would be our education system. I would not say it is all the education systems fault, and more of the students or their parents, because they don't discipline the Kids enough. Some kids would skip class 24/7, and then question, why they are in the bad situation they are in.*

*Me: We are going to talk about you education system later, so let's focus on Americas politics for now.*

*You said you don't like your county because of their politics, but is there something that you think is good?*

*Jordan had to think about this question a little bit.*

*Jordan: I like the ability of America to let us have the freedom people want, with freedom of speech but at the same time being limited to what I can do. Because when people have too much freedom, it is not going to work out. I mean someone could not just go around and kill some people. But you can basically travel anywhere without many problems. Like if you want to go camping, and you don't destroy the nature or something like that, you are completely fine. I mean, I don't want to be restricted to one place constantly.*

*Me: That is totally understandable.*

*Do you have some things concerning politics from other countries, that you would like to have here in the USA?*

Jordan: I think it is better to fix the problems we are having with our politics. But I would not say that we need to add other things from other countries.

*To be honest, I really liked this answer.*

*Me: Ok, so you said, that you have Religion and stuff influencing the politics in America, but is there a big division in Politics, and if so, how did it affect you or did you experience that?*

*I already knew that there is a big division in politics happening in America, though I don't know how people feel that daily. We are also experiencing a crisis in politics in Germany right now. The people who are powerful in our government are old. So, most people are not happy with the government at all.*

Jordan: I would not say that I have been influenced that much... The most recent thing that might have affected me was the Asian hate movement, where covid hit and everyone was targeting Asians. They believed that Asians were the reason, why we had covid. And then we had Politicians like Donald Trump blaming China for the outbreak of the virus. Unfortunately, many uneducated people followed this propaganda.

*Me: So, do you think, that the division of Politic movements in your country is a product of your education system?*

*This is something I think is a big reason for bad politics in a country. It is very easy to influence people who did not get a good education. People like Trump take advantage of that. I think that knowledge is the key for a good democracy.*

Jordan: I'd say yes, but also no. From what we learned in APUSH there were the two politic parties already from the beginning of the country on. I think this is more a product of what you have been told as a child. For example, in the south you would more told to like guns and in the north, you would be told, that we need more equality and stuff like that. So, I think it depends on where you were born and on the education you received. So, when you parents limit the amount of education you get or introduce strong religious views to you. You are stuck with that way of believing you entire life. And when then people bring new ideals to you, you would probably not believe it.

*Me: All right.*

*We got politics checked from the list now, so let's dive into another topic now. You said something about Asian hate before, and I heard about that to in the news back then when it was really big. We saw videos of people getting hit or completely violated. Did you or your family experience Asian hate before?*

*In the news back in Germany I often saw clips people beating up Asian people in New York or other big cities.*

Jordan: For my family, I don't really think so. But for me the last time was like back in elementary school, when the kids still thought, that ever stereotype was true. For example, that we eat dogs and Cats and stuff like that. But when we grow up... I mean I can't lie, racism will always be there, but I feel like it is getting less.

*Me: Do you think that this influenced you in some way?*

Jordan: It taught me like not to care this much anymore. Because when you hear it so often, you get used to it.

*Me: That is pretty interesting.*

*But let's change topics now once again. So, let's talk about the gun law in the USA.*

Jordan: Yes, any Americans favourite /laughs

*Me: How do you feel about the Gun law here?*

*This was a question I was personally very interested about. For me as a German, I never had the chance to touch or shoot a gun. I am interested about how American people feel about the Fact, that everybody can buy a gun.*

Jordan: It is scary, it is very scary. I think it is good that we have the freedom to also own firearms. But if anyone can own a gun and it is so easy to get. Last year in Spanish class, we talked about the gun law. I don't know why we were talking about that, but there was this senior, only 18 years old and already owns a 12-gauge shotgun. So, the scary thing is, that if the parents have the right to own guns, and do so, potentially Kids can pick them up and use them.

*Me: Does your family own a gun?*

Jordan: No! My family does not own any firearms. Because my parents are terrified of them. I am kind of used to firearms because of the way I grew up. I saw guns all the time in video games and the news. But because my family comes from Vietnam and the most recent event was the Vietnam war there, my parents are still terrified of them.

*This really surprised me. After the data from Wikipedia, there are a 120 gun per 100 people.*

*Me: Have you ever witnessed a shooting or something like that?*

Jordan: Not directly, but near me.

*Me: How was it like?*

Jordan: In the neighbourhood I lived in, was a drug house. Well, I was just moving there, and they completely raided that place with armoured police cars and were going to shoot up that entire place. And the most recent one I remember, was where a teenager was annoying some old guy. The old Dude got so angry, that he pulled out a firearm and shot down that kid. And the scary thing is, that I just walked that pathway, where this Kid got shot.

*Me: That's crazy.*

*I personally have never heard a gunshot before.*

*So, when I was gathering information about my America essay, I compared the police killings from America to the ones from Germany. I am just going to hit you with these numbers now.*

*So here is the USA you have like 1000 to 1300 police killings per year, and this is twice as much as the total number of police killings in Germany since 1950. What do you think about that?*

Jordan: To be honest, I am not surprised this much. Like don't get me wrong, there are bad people in almost every industry. But most of the times, the way that the people handle the situation is the reason why they got killed in the first place. For example, there was this event, where a man got killed at a fast-food industry, because he was waving around with a gun and the police were scared for their lives and the ones of other people. They are still humans; this is something people sometimes forget.

*Me: Do you think the fact that the police must expect a gun at every place, where they see a stranger is a part of that problem?*

Jordan: Yes, for Shure! Because basically everybody can own a gun If he wants, the police expect you to have a gun on you when they approach you. They will ask: "Do you have your licence and registration? Do you have any firearms in your truck?"

In Germany no cop would ask if you had any firearms in your vehicle, because basically nobody can own one.

*Me: All right, so let's change the topics once again and now talk about the American education system. We talked about this before in your interview, so let just simply ask: What do you think we could improve at your scholar system?*

Jordan: The students. I think they don't care enough. Let's say that you don't want to take computer science for example, but you are forced to take it. You should still go into the class just for the experience. I feel like most people here would skip this class, but I think it is better to put in a little effort and to try to understand, why people like to go into this class. Maybe you will even find a new hobby that you like. But unfortunately, most people would not put in the work.

*Me: So, do you think that the teachers have to be stricter?*

Jordan: Yes! At least there should be more consequences for their actions.

*Me: Would it help to have a system like in Germany, where being present in classes and participating is a big part of your grade?*

*In Germany on all classes the participation in class is the biggest part of the grade. In most of them the participation grade makes more than 60% of your grade.*

Jordan: Yes, this could help because it would force the students to come into the classes. Remember what our first-class teacher said? There is a student, who only appeared once or twice in the entire school year. Or my friend, who skipped out like three or four months of class and had to get enrolled back at school.

*Me: when people give two poops like this on their grade, do they even matter in their later live?*

Jordan: That depends on what you want to do in live. If you want to go to college or do a certain job, then your grades might matter. But there are also some jobs, where they literally don't give a crab about your grades, and you just learn everything you need there.

*Me: The education system in Germany is very straight forward: If you put the work in, then you get rewarded. Do you think that this is the America?*

Jordan: No. Because you can basically pay yourself into a good college if you are not smart enough. But for the lower class it is just not possible to study at a good college if you don't have the credits to go there.

*Me: So, what you are saying is that Studying at a college is very expensive and if you don't get the credits to visit it, there is no way for poor people to study there?*

Jordan: Yes.

*Me: all right. Then we are done now. Thank you for participating!*

*I think that I took much from this talk. I feel like I can understand how it was growing up here. This is something that I could never learn from only a year abroad here. I also could get more knowledge about how the young people think about politics and the US government. In the time I went to school here I think I could get a good view on the education system and how it is going to a high school. Because of that the interview was very interesting for me.*