**Sharjah vs. Colombo**

Shanta is an 18 years old teenager, who graduated from his local international high school in Colombo. He looked up the internet for universities he could apply for abroad. He found a university in a city called Sharjah located in The United Arab Emirates. After asking around about the university, Shanta decided to visit that city and explore more. The first thing he noticed when he arrived is how Colombo and Sharjah are two major cities with many things in common…. (List similarities)… Even though the two cities have a bunch of similarities, the major differences are what divides them apart. The environment, tourism and religion are one of the few points that makes the two cities so different.

Firstly, a city’s environment is the key to determine whether it is livable or not. Sharjah’s streets located in the city’s center is clean and appealing. But, if you tried to look around, you’ll find some streets that are left untouched by the city’s government. On the other hand, the city of Colombo is famous for its very clean and green streets. Despite the constantly raining weather and the poor living conditions its citizens live in, Colombo’s government own much care of how clean the streets look.

Secondly, tourism has become the lead source of economy in major cities. Sharjah is famous in the gulf region for its love of Islamic art and architecture. Also, Sharjah is considered to be the third most attractive city in the UAE after the capitol Abu Dhabi and the luxurious city of Dubai. Furthermore, Sharjah hosts many Islamic architecture and Arabic theatre shows that attracts numerous Arabic literature and theatre lovers around the Middle East. On the contrary, Colombo has just got out of its own civil war a few years ago. And its economy has been constantly trying rise ever since. Also, Colombo has very few tourist attractions; such as elephant parks and the park of herbs and spices.

Thirdly, the religion and the ethnic backgrounds of the citizens in a city are what makes the city as a whole. Sharjah embraces its main religion in the region; which is Islam. It also has mosques scattered around in every area of the city. But, it accepts other religions such as Christianity and has a few churches in city; that is because of the many races and ethnicities living in Sharjah. In contrast, Colombo hosts numerous religions in its city alone; such as Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.