# Global Hack 7 Presentation Script

Aarat:

Welcome to Telesis. My name is Aarat, and this is Aman and Dhruv. We’re students at University of Massachusetts, and all three of us are first generation immigrants to the US.

Aman:

Really quickly before we show you our product, we wanted to discuss the problem we decided to solve. Before and during the hackathon, we contacted our friends and family who were immigrants and asked them about their experiences here. The main problem can be summed up on one sentence – “we don’t know what we don’t know”.

Immigrants don’t know what services and groups are available to them, and they don’t know the systems they’re navigating. They don’t know who they can ask for help, and most of all, they don’t know what help they really need.

There’s only two ways you can get this: personal experience, and hearing about the experience from others. Rather than providing information which may not be locally relevant, we’ve built a tool to help immigrants connect with people who can help them. This helps new immigrants while also fostering a sense of community.

Dhruv:

Let’s get into a demo [Aarat begins the live server]. We created a website and a mobile application that connects immigrants to people based on multiple attributes.

Aarat:

When we begin, we greet the user immediately with the ability to choose their preferred language. For the purposes of this hackathon, we chose 5 of the most popular languages in the US, English, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, and Chinese.

From there, they go to a login/register page where they can easily sign up without hassle. They then go to a small questionnaire to help us learn more about them.

Aman:

The matchmaking algorithm is designed to connect people who are similar yet able to help each other. We first filter the database by geographical location, and then assign weights to all the information we got from the questionnaire. For example, a new immigrant would be best helped by a long-time US resident. People of the same religion may get along easier, making first contact a breeze. We sort of create a Euclidean Graph and measure distances between different “points”, or users. Our weights prioritize certain dimensions over others to get the best match.

Dhruv:

After this, they can begin getting connections based on the area around them and can reach out with the live chat we’ve integrated into the website. Hopefully, they can find some things in common and perhaps meet in person. A long-time resident can introduce new immigrants to helpful services and create a lasting friendship.

Aarat:

Since we don’t have much time, I want to quickly go over why we think we’re different. We took our brainstorming straight to the immigrants to find a solution that really works for them. I think we’ve found something that both speaks to long-time residents and new immigrants.

Aman:

I think our matchmaking algorithm properly takes into consideration the attributes and qualities that allow people to work together. Obviously our weights aren’t backed by data and experience, but we believe it’s a good start to a fair and efficient system.

## Questions:

Aarat handles design and frontend questions.

Dhruv handles questions on the backend.

Aman handles questions on the idea, the mobile application, and the matchmaking algorithm.

* If they ask why long-time residents would want to use the app, I have the perfect answer. I really hope they ask because we don’t have time to discuss it.