

Candidate: **DORIS LIU**

Status: **3rd Year Urban Studies and Planning Major @ UCSD**

Relationship: **GIRLFRIEND**

StoryCorps Qs

1. Who has been the most important person in your life? Can you tell me about him or her?

A: My Father. He's kind but he can be stubborn. He's clearly smart but sometimes he doesn't make the most effort in his work. However, now he's learned from his mistakes. He projects some of those insecurities on me, but has gotten better with that. He jokes around, is chill, but if you provoke him he gets super angry and scary. Overall, he has helped me through a lot of things including education and has really encouraged me in life.

2. What was the happiest moment of your life? The saddest?

A: I can't think of any for my happiest moment, I guess I don't really know. As for my saddest moment, it would be the break up with previous relationship, and family drama that came with it.

3. Name the people who have been the biggest influences on your life? What lessons these teach you?

A: My Father, and boyfriend (me). Talking about my father, he has really taught me the tools to succeed in school and do well. He's taught me good work ethic, memorization, how to learn properly, how to stay on task and motivated. My boyfriend has taught me how to speak up for myself, that I can love myself more, I can be more confident. He really motivates me to do a lot more things than just study and hope for a good future, he has taught me that I can go out there and put myself out there.

4. Who has been the kindest to you in your life?

A: My Mom. She may not be the smartest person or the most successful, but she definitely cares for me a lot and shows a lot of kindness.

5. What is the important lessons you've learned in life?

A: No matter how big or small the assignment in life is, I always believe it is worth the effort to try my best to do my best.

6. What is your earliest memory?

A: When I was about 3, I would go to a daycare pre-school kinda thing in Taiwan and I remember that morning song we sang in class.

7. Are there any funny stories or memories or characters from your life that you want to tell me about?

A: My Uncle. We started giving nicknames to each other, poking each other and playing around kiddishly. Every time I see him, I call him that nickname and it's an inside joke that we have. It's amusing and innocent.

8. What are you proudest of?

A: I don't really have a proudest moment.

9. If you could hold on to one memory from your life forever, what would that be?

A: I would want to remember my boyfriend. Everything about him and every moment we had.

10. How has your life been different than what you'd imagined 5 years ago?

A: I would never have imagined I would have gone to UCSD, one of the greatest schools in California, and that I would have met all the people that I did there. These 5 years have changed significantly for me and I never would have realized before you asked me this question.

11. How would you like to be remembered?

A: For the people who know me right now, I would want to be remembered as a person who was always there for them, who was a great friend, and someone who genuinely cared about them. I would want to leave a positive impact on their life, to be remembered for my influence on their life.

12. Do you have any regrets in life? Name one.

A: Not being brave enough to do or say things earlier. Missing the opportunity to stand up for myself or say no to certain things.

13. If this was to be our very last conversation, is there anything you'd want to say?

A: I don't know how to answer this question. I guess I'll see when we get there.

14. For your great great grandchildren listening to this years from now: is there any wisdom you'd want to pass on to them? What would you want them to know?

A: Don't give in to peer pressure. For example in an educational setting if your teammates try to sway your opinion because they believe in something that you don't, don't necessarily give in to them. Also work your hardest and try not to be influenced by addicting substances.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

15. What is your nationality? Which ethnic group do you identify with?

A: My nationality is Taiwanese. My ethnic group is Taiwanese-American

16. How has your native culture affected your life?

A: My native culture is Taiwanese. This has influenced me in terms of my perception of independence and individualism. To this day, even though I am above the age of 18, I still consider my parent's permission as crucial and often listen to what they say. I feel restrained about what I can and

can't do. As opposed to if I were born in a purely American family, my concept of independence would manifest at age 18 and I would be a lot more self-sustaining at that age. Furthermore, in my culture, you are expected to do well in school, and if you don't it is considered shameful to the family. I feel the constant pressure to do well, and if I don't I feel as though I am not a part of the family. It definitely put a lot of pressure on me to succeed. That mentality has been ingrained in me. I don't even think about how it will affect my family, I mostly think about how it would affect me. A "C" is a fail for me, and it has made me conceive success using a higher standard.

17. If you are an immigrant, what is your experience with starting a new life in America?

A: I am an immigrant. My experience is that I came here pretty young so I could learn the language very fast. However it made my parents scared that I would forget how to speak native Taiwanese, so they sent me to cultural classes. I took ELD (similar to ESL) classes, which were required in my school. In schools they used my legal name, which was embarrassing when the teachers try to pronounce my name. I did not want people to know that my name was weird. I felt a barrier between me and the people that grew up here. There is a divide between ESL and GATE students, often and issue of superiority. The fact that I wasn't a citizen made it worse. When we go shopping, or go in public, once people see our English isn't that great, we are treated very differently. As immigrants, we don't see as much privilege as native residents, so we get treated worse.

18. Do you believe in meritocracy and the American dream (work hard and you will get rewarded)?

A: Yes, of course. I always believe that and will continue to believe this.

19. What language are you most comfortable with?

A: English

20. What language do you speak in the house? Outside the classroom?

A: Inside the house I speak English and Mandarin. If it's outside the house, it would be English or Mandarin depending on who I am speaking to.

21. If you could not speak, what method would you use to express yourself most effectively?

A: Probably write words on paper. Otherwise, I would just make facial expressions that show my mood.

22. How do you express yourself most frequently to this day?

A: I express myself through my designs and artistic pieces.

23. What are your hobbies?

A: Singing, drawing, designing, volleyball, and watching Netflix.

24. Think of a few key words to define yourself. (eg: Occupational titles, belonging to certain cultural groups, etc)

A: Designer and Planner, Taiwanese, Proud Female, Only Child.

25. What is your experience of being taught in classroom settings?

A: I feel like it's too disbursed. The student to teacher ratio is too large. You can't really learn properly when there is only on person lecturing you. You have to figure out your own way to get through the lecture. I would like it more if classroom settings were more intimate, like if the professor could concentrate on each student and help them learn as opposed to one person speaking to 300 - 400 people at a time.

26. What kind of learner are you? (eg: Visual, audio, verbal, etc)

A: Definitely Visual and Audio

27. Do you have any complaints, critiques, or regrets about your experience with the American Education System?

A: I don't understand why there are quarter systems AND semester systems. I don't understand the huge student to teacher ratio where people can't really learn properly. I don't like how sometimes the system hires teachers based on skill, but rather based on how long they have been there, seniority, how familiar they are with the school and how many connections they have. This applies to jobs in other industries, clubs, and other institutions too. People shouldn't be rewarded for having connections to powerful people or influential people, but rather they should be rewarded for having skill, and earning that reward through hard work and dedication.

28. What is the best experience you had with the American Education System?

A: I like that the education system enables you to make friends easier. School brings a lot of people's personalities out and you can easily get to know them as opposed to a work setting. It is kinda like a social gathering where you can make friends.

29. What steps do you take to do well in class or homework?

A: If it's not due immediately the next day, or a long term assignment, I would first clarify things before I start so I don't get confused later on. For short-term assignments, I do the same thing, except I try to get it done as soon as possible and as best as I can. When it comes to tests, you have to go to class, take notes, actually listen to the professor. I take those recommendations and I apply them every time to ensure that I succeed. For studying, I don't like to wait for the last minute. I try to come up with a mental schedule. I allocate a certain amount of time, or set certain goals that help me stay on tasks. I really hate to cram things in last minute.

30. If there was one thing you would change about the education system, what would it be? (It could be a school program, campaign, a new class, etc.)

A: The one thing I would want to change is to make sure that the people the system hire to teach get vetted correctly and make sure they are actually credible to teach. No matter how motivated the students are, their success really depends on how well the teacher teaches the class material. Teachers have a hard job, I agree, but at the end of the day they should be hired based on their teaching ability and not how many Ph.Ds they have or how many industry connections they have.

Summary

1. Linguistic and cultural background summary on your participant.
 - Her name is Doris Liu, birth name (刘惠洁) Liu Hui Jie.
 - Nationality is Taiwanese.
 - Part of Taiwanese-American Ethnic Group.
 - Most comfortable speaking English.
 - Speaks Mandarin mostly at home and sometimes with certain friends in public, speaks English sometimes at home and mostly in Public with strangers.
 - Audio and Visual Learner.
 - Values education. Feels like it is almost a cultural requirement to do well in school.
 - Immigrated to USA pretty young, and picked up the language pretty fast.
 - Due to Taiwanese cultural background, has accepted different views of independence and individualism that American perspectives. Even though she is above 18 years of age, still feels like she has to listen to her parents and that they make most of the decisions in life. Concept of self-independence is different.
 - Took cultural classes as a kid to stay connected to native heritage.
 - Took ESL-like classes and was embarrassed when people try to pronounce her birth name incorrectly, as if she had a “weird” name.
 - Lesser opportunities in life, and treated worse due to poor English spoken by her parents. In school, clear divide between the ESL and GATE students (she belonged to ESL).
 - Believes in American Dream and meritocracy (you earn what you put in, and hard work leads to incremental success).
 - If she could not speak, she would probably express herself through writing or through her art and designs.
 - She expresses herself mostly through her artistic pieces and designs.
 - Her hobbies are volleyball, designing/planning, drawing, volleyball, etc.