**School**: Yale University

**Prompt**: Reflect on a community to which you feel connected. Why is it meaningful to you? You may define community however you like.

**Word limit**: 250 words

# Outline

* Topics:
  + Argentina
  + Giving back to Argentina
* Outline:
  + Intro:
    - What Argentinians are stereotyped as
    - Reality check at then end
  + Argentina bad: (MAYBE INCLUDE EXCHANGE RATE HERE)
    - D
  + Argentina good 1:
    - D
  + Argentina good 2: Multiculturalism
    - D
  + Learnings and conclusion:

# Last Year’s (for Duke)

A key factor I believe will add value to Duke’s diverse student body is my Argentinian background. Besides the typical cultural elements, I have some traits inherent from growing up in my country.

Since I was thirteen, I have known the conversion rate between pesos and dollars. Our economy is very dependent on external factors, and cannot sustain by itself at all. The first thing this has taught me is to be grateful for the situation I find myself in, I am able to eat every day, have a roof to sleep under, and even have the chance to apply to college. The second thing it has taught me is that I should strive for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions to the problems I want to solve. Everyone should be able to benefit from them.

I consider creativeness and persistence to be two other characteristics I attribute to having grown here. Argentinian institutions are famously bureaucratic and traditional. Having experience with trying to implement innovative solutions has taught me that sometimes one must flip the situation over its head and think of completely different ways to solve or get a round a problem.

Overall, I believe my experience growing up in Argentina provides me with a unique perspective that can provide new viewpoints and solutions for the complex discussions being held at Duke.

# Generic Version

There seems to be a general consensus that being Argentinian means that you are a cheerful, soccer-loving and *alfajor*-eating individual. Although that is often the case, there is much more to being Argentinian.

I share one of the most common Latino traits: I can be way too loud. But being Latino does not always entail hugging everyone and greeting them with kisses. Since I was thirteen I have known the conversion rate between pesos and dollars. In Argentina your savings could suddenly be wiped out by our continually inflating currency. A struggling economy means that there are less opportunities. Even if you work hard, you may not be able to succeed due to corruption or a mismanagement of resources.

Nonetheless, Argentinians have a multitude of good characteristics: accessible public transportation, free higher education and free healthcare. We are very welcoming and love to share our traditions, like *mate* or Sunday *asados*. We place friends and family as the most important thing in our lives. There is a uniqueness about Argentina that makes it so that even in a crumbling economy, Argentians still manage to retain a strong national pride.

Argentina is also a very multicultural country. It is very common to hear that someone’s grandparent immigrated a long time ago looking for a brighter future. I was born to a Spanish-Italian family, went to a Catholic primary school and then moved to Chinatown to go to a Jewish highschool. It has made me appreciate the value of diversity. It has put into perspective how much we learn by pure osmosis when we are immersed in a community of people with a wide range of backgrounds and experiences.

Argentina has showed me how think outside the box, striving for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions to the problems of society, so that everyone can benefit from them. Because of all this, nothing will ever make me feel less proud of being Argentinian. I believe my experience growing up in Argentina provides me with a unique perspective that can provide new viewpoints and solutions for the complex discussions being held at Yale.

# Story Version

“I can’t afford rent, I don’t know where to stay”, my friend Frida said over the phone. She had just finished high school and had no way of sustaining herself. Her parents owned no assets and had just lost their jobs.

Frida’s situation is shared by a surprisingly high number of people in Argentina, a country where your savings could be suddenly wiped out by our ever-increasing inflation. A struggling economy means that there are fewer opportunities, that even if you work hard, you may not be able to succeed due to corruption or mismanagement of resources.

Nonetheless, Frida never gave up–a defining characteristic of those in my community. We are very welcoming and love to share our traditions, like *mate* or Sunday *asados*. We place friends and family as the most important thing in our lives. There is a uniqueness about Argentina that makes it so that even in a crumbling economy, Argentians still manage to retain a strong national pride. She remained persistent to pursue a better tomorrow as she now enjoys a decent living Buenos Aires working as a software developer.

As it showed Frida, Argentina has showed me how think outside the box, striving for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions to the problems of society, so that everyone can benefit from them. Because of all this, nothing will ever make me feel less proud of being Argentinian. I believe my experience growing up in Argentina provides me with a unique perspective that can provide new viewpoints and solutions for the complex discussions being held at Yale.

# 