My experience in the Czech Republic

To me, this exchange has been filled with mostly positives. When the czech students were with us in sweden, I feel like many of us did not really hit it off with their exchange students, and some did not even get along at all. I think I might have been a part of the latter. However, this time around has been different, and I am quite certain that most of us will agree. I suppose it is because we were first getting to know each other the first time, and now, since we are already acquainted, it has been easier for both parties to feel comfortable, which has allowed people to truly act like themselves and for new friendships to bloom.

We had many thoughts and ideas about how life here would be, and I feel like all of our assumptions were wrong. Thankfully, this trip has taught us much about the life and culture here, and of course the people. The people were sort of a mixed bag for me. While our host families have accepted us kindly and respectfully, the trip to the school might have slightly upset some of us. Sweden is a very multi-ethnical and multi-cultural country, which I am sure is quite apparent considering the rather large amount of non ethinic swedes in this class. There were many concerns in our class regarding how those students would be treated in this country, and none of us seemed to have any problems up until we got to meet some of the classes in the school. We had almost forgotten about our worries of being colored in this country, and the laughs and sometimes pointed fingers of the students were a crude reminder of what we hade feared before coming. Seeing a girl in a hijab might be outside the norm here, but never will I understand why laughing was the reaction some of the students felt was appropriate. Other than that, I feel like the 2017 Czech Exchange was a success.