

Interview questions

How do you identify yourself? (culturally, racially, ethnically, etc. -however participant wants to frame it)

C.P. : Race - White, Ethnicity - Hispanic or Latino

E.P. : Race - Black, Ethnicity - Hispanic or Latino

How does your ethnic identity affect your life?

C.P. : I feel like being Hispanic or Latino positively impacts my life because I am bilingual. I am able to communicate with those who do not speak English and help them if needed. I am able to do things that someone who only speaks English can't do.

E.P. : Being Hispanic or Latino really comes in handy, especially at work. Even though I am not fluent in Spanish, I am still able to provide the customer with what they need.

There's some research showing that second gen is more successful (e.g., higher income) than the first, do you see any parallels between the way your life is shaped compared to those of your parents?

C.P. : I do not see any parallels between the way my life is shaped compared to my parents. I am a stay-at-home mother who relies on my husband's income. My parents both had to work hard in order to maintain a life in the United States.

E.P. : I agree with this statement. I have a higher income than my father because he came to the United States at such a young age and worked at a grocery store. Both my father and I have to work in order to receive an income, even though I make more than him.

How did the environment that you grew up in impact your identity development?

C.P. : I grew up in Manhattan, New York. Majority of the people there were White. Being surrounded by them on a daily basis helped shape my identity. However, at home, I only spoke Spanish because my parents were not fluent in English.

E.P. : I grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I went to school where the majority of the population was African American. I was surrounded by Blacks throughout my lifetime. However, when I got together with my family, we listened to Spanish music and ate Spanish food.

How well are you acquainted with your parents' birth country? For example, since your family's immigration, have you gone back to your/their country? If yes, how has that experience made you feel about your immigration; if no, is there any reason you have not gone back?

C.P. : I am very acquainted with my parents' birth country. I visit the Dominican Republic once a year and I have all my family from D.R. on social media. I feel grateful that I was able to grow up in the United States because I have many more opportunities here.

E.P. : I am not acquainted with my parents' birth country. I have never been to the Dominican Republic and I have no connections with my family there.

What do you see as advantages and disadvantages of being 2nd generation American?

Both stated: I am glad that I am able to do the things that my parents never got to do. However, that puts a lot of pressure on me because I want to be successful for them and make them proud of everything that I accomplish.

What was your home life compared to your social life? Did you feel that you shielded parts of yourself or your identity around those in school or work settings?

C.P. : My home life was a Spanish speaking environment while my social life was an English speaking environment. However, I don't think I shielded parts of myself because I surrounded myself with friends who had similar identity as me.

E.P. : My home life and social life were both an English speaking environment. I don't feel like I shielded parts of myself in school or work settings because I was able to be myself in any location.

What is there about the 2nd gen experience that you think someone who doesn't share it might not realize?

Both stated: Even though it may look like we are privileged and have all these advantages, however that is not always the case. We still have to wake up everyday and work hard in order to become successful.