

A Comparison and Contrast of Poland and Texas (Free write)

My trip to Poland has been something I will never forget. I have learned much more about culture and agriculture in other countries than I ever anticipated, and I truly believe it has helped me grow as an individual. Here in Poland, I knew there would be many things different from Texas, but I did not expect all of the similarities. Upon observation, I have noticed numerous aspects of Poland that are direct parallels to Texas amidst the stark differences that separate the two.

First of all, I noticed that both Texas and Poland have a strong sense of religion. Back home, most everyone recognizes God as their ruler and creator, and it seems to



be the same here in Poland and especially in the family I am living with. The Krasnodebski family lives life in a manner that reflects their religion by service toward others, and they have a high code of morals. In their town of Jablonna Lacka, you can see all kinds of relics that represent their faith, which is predominately Roman Catholic.

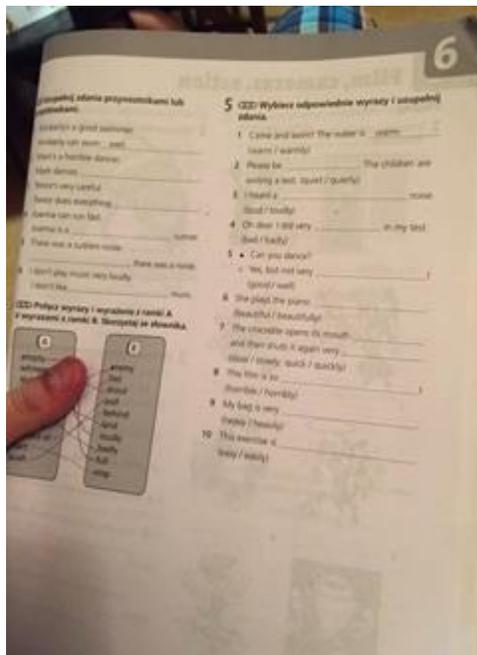
Next, all the kids I have come in contact with work very hard along with their mother and father, no matter how young they may be. In America, not all the kids are taught how to work, but here in Poland, they start learning how to use tractors, plant crops, and do other tasks at a very young age. This is something that we can improve on here in the states. Kids are becoming lazier due to the trap of television and video games, and lose sight of what it means to put in a hard day's work. Not everyone in Texas is this way, but it is something that we can improve on nonetheless.

Both Texas and Poland look for ways to improve on their farming techniques. While in my stay at Jablonna Lacka, I attended a seminar in which a company by the name of KWS came and presented information to local farmers about which types of crops will grow the best in the current conditions, and the types of fertilizers that are most effective. We do the same in Texas. You don't have to look very far to find a group of people coming together to brainstorm about different ways to make their farms better than they were originally.

I also observed other things in terms of farming. For example, just as it is in Texas, the overall number of farms are decreasing but the size of farms is increasing. Not only is that the case in Poland and Texas, but also in a large majority of the world. Also, both places have people who are afraid of Genetically Modified Organisms, or GMOs. In



Texas, people have the technology to use this technique despite the opposition of some, but in Poland, they are not even produced. They have many different oppositions



to it, and do not see the need for modification when “things are already fine”. While this is an issue that is going to divide more and more people in the future, Poland is united in the fact that their economy is booming. Ever since joining the European Union, their condition has drastically improved in all aspects of the word.

Another difference in Poland that I didn't anticipate was the massive contrast in the education system. In Texas, education past the high school level is extremely expensive, and people spend years trying to pay off their student loan debt. However, here in Poland, much of their education is free from primary school all the way up to the collegiate level. This is a great privilege they enjoy, and they only pay for education if they choose to seek it from

an exclusive institution. Another aspect of education different from Texas is that in their first 12 years, they learn a foreign language. The language they almost always learn is English, and the teachers do a great job at it. This is evident in the exceptional fluency of Ewa and Dorota, who are sisters of Adam Krasnodebski. It has made my stay here much easier in terms of communication, due to the fact that they can help translate any conversation and understand anything I say to them. In my opinion, Texas should make it mandatory to teach a foreign language to students all the way from primary school to the end of high school. With Texas having a large population of Spanish speaking individuals, it would benefit us greatly to have the knowledge to communicate more effectively with them.

Next, I have observed the nature of Polish parties and dinners. With many dinners in Texas, people eat, talk for a little while, then go home once it gets dark outside. Here in Poland, it is sometimes an all day and night affair. On many occasions, I attended a gathering where a massive number of people sat down at a table garnished with all types of bread, meat, fruits, and vegetables. They would eat



whatever was on the table, then servers would come by and deliver even more food. They would stop eating for a while and talk, but then after an hour or so, even more food would come by and the process would start all over again. They love one another's company, and cherish every chance they get to spend time with friends and family. The way they conduct big meals in Poland is different from Texas, but in both places, the people will have fun when it's time to have fun and work when it is time to work. We all celebrate life and the fact that we can live and work and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Many things separate Texas from Poland in terms of culture and traditions, but all in all, we are united by the fact that we have a strong desire to do our best in whatever

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we do, and try our absolute hardest to make this world a better place. My trip to Poland has helped me understand this concept, and it is something that I will take with me wherever I go in life.