

Volunteers: Ruth\*, Charlotte

Students : Hyun ju, Yoko, Satoko, Rainbow, Jing Sun, Kathy

We began by putting the EEN to the side, and simply listening to a recording of “Deal for the Dreamers?”. Then we discussed briefly what the students heard and understood. Mostly it was just that the children had been brought here illegally. Then we listened again while reading along with the newspaper. Afterward I asked the student’s opinions on what should be done. They acknowledged that it was a difficult question. We marked the 10 states on a map that wanted DACA ended, and saw that they were spread out across the country.

I explained that they were ‘conservative’ states. Each student was given a matrix showing the conservative vs. liberal views on social topics such as health care, gun control, education, etc. They read the basic descriptions of each, and were asked whether they felt they were more liberal or conservative. The students could see both sides of some issues and thought there was merit to each, but also a need for compromise. This led to a lengthy discussion of how to deal with illegal immigrants and the policies of their respective countries.

Following break, the discussion continued, on the topic of gun control and the right to privacy. Hyun ju told us that a “Korean women living in the US group” had decided to boycott Amazon for one day because Amazon supported the NRA. She said it was a small thing, but at least felt that they were doing something.

Kathy then talked about how in China there are no guns allowed but they are not needed because there is very little crime due to cameras everywhere. Satoko questioned whether they were comfortable with the government watching everything and we talked about the trade-off of security versus privacy.

Overall, there was a good bit of give and take with the students expressing their opinions, asking each other questions, and sharing what their respective home countries did.