

I was interviewed by the Lynnbrook High School newspaper prior to giving my talk in 2006 on Asian American: The Challenges of Navigating Two Cultures in 2006. Here is an excerpt of the interview

- How do you plan to set up your presentation? (E.g. Will you be talking first, then answering questions, or blending the two, etc?)

I plan on talking and answering questions as they come. However, if there are many questions, or if we get off track, I may then ask people to wait to ask questions until the end of my talk.

- What types of things will you be talking about?

I will be talking about the particular challenges and opportunities encountered by Asian and Asian American teens in America. Adolescence is an important time in which individuals are searching for a stable and secure identity. Asian and Asian American teens have the additional challenge of integrating the values and norms of the country of origin with those of the dominant US culture; these values are sometimes conflicting. So I will talk about the differences between "mainstream American" culture and Asian and Asian American cultures, especially those of East Asia and Southeast Asia. I'll discuss the different views of the role of family and school and of what constitutes success. I'll also speak about the various ways that families adjust to a new culture, and how intergenerational stress results when parents and teens choose different styles of acculturation. I'll list the topics which cause a lot of intergenerational conflict: school/academics, including choice of college and major, family expectations, socialization/dating. I'll mention research that shows that bicultural Asian American students do better academically compared to those who identify with the American culture or Asian cultures only, but these students may be under more stress.

- Why are you presenting your speech? (What is the goal of your presentation?)

My goal is to help parents and educators better understand what Asian American students are going through, and also to help Asian American teens better understand where their parents are coming from. Unfortunately, when there is intergenerational conflict there can be a tendency for parents to judge their more acculturated children based on norms and values from their country of origin, and for the teens to judge their parents based on the norms and values of the mainstream American culture. Each person believes the problem lies with the other individual, and so the cultural clash becomes a family conflict or a conflict between individuals. My hope is that this talk can lead to more dialog between parents and teens, and to more discussions among students and parents.

- How much interest do you get in the topic you're talking about? Who will you gear your discussion towards more, parents or students?

I've given talks to psychology graduate students who are training to become psychotherapists on cultural differences, and I've received a lot of interest from them on the topic. This will be my first time bringing this discussion to the community, and I'm really excited about it. My discussion is geared toward parents, students, and any educators who may be interested in the topic.

- Are all the informational things you will be talking about just things you've picked up in your time as a psychologist? Or will there be statistics, facts, etc?

Most of my talk will be based on research and published findings with a sprinkling of what I've gathered in my professional and personal experience.