City Bound Proposal

After being given the topic ‘Multiculturalism’, my group decided to base our work around the question “Is multiculturalism accepted in Melbourne?” This question is not simply yes or no, not black or white, and we intend to elaborate effectively throughout our time working on this subject.

Ever since I was young have been involved in multiculturalism, even if only mildly, at my primary school it was strongly encouraged to have an enthusiastic approach towards different cultures, and often we would go on excursions to see different performances from belly-dancing to learning how to play large bongo drums. As I grew older, I began working at various markets with my mother, and especially at those in the city, you would see a much larger variety of people, and also a larger variety of food that was sold. Sampling mini Dutch pancakes and rice dishes, serving and chatting to numerous people of different races, and becoming friends with the old Greek couple in the stall next to us, I have been given a small insight into multiculturalism.   
  
I believe that multiculturalism is accepted in Melbourne – it is one of the contributing factors that have made it into the unique, thriving city it is today. Food and immigration have been not only acknowledged, but promoted, encouraging everyone to be accepting, and over the years, Melbourne has grown into a city that endorses and supports a wide variety of cultures, holding different festivals throughout the year. Exceptions to every rule are apparent, perhaps not so much in the city, where it is simply courteous to accept everyone, but maybe in the outer suburbs of Melbourne – we’ll have to research it further.  
  
I would be interested in talking to the Greek couple, who migrated to Australia, that run the general store down my street. I would also possible get the chance to talk, and perhaps interview, stall-holders at the markets, which would be great because cultures are so diverse there, I think it would help my group and I get a better understanding of what it is like for migrants, and different cultures living in Melbourne.   
  
I think that talking to Mr Bolch would be very effective, as he is involved with the Round Square group, and exchange programs. Our group plans to email him and organise an interview, asking him what his opinions are on multiculturalism in Melbourne.  
  
Going to the city, to China Town, and various markets – very popular ones such as the Victorian Market – or smaller ones, such as the Laverton market, would be a great way to survey a wide variety of people. I plan to question them about their views on multiculturalism, if they’re from a different culture or a migrant, have they had any problems adapting, and do they think the behaviour in Melbourne needs to change.   
  
While exploring the city, we would have to try and cover a fair range of places for our topic. I’m thinking of places such as markets, China Town, immigration centres, Lygon Street, etc. Sampling different food and talking to people who work justice for people trying to move to our country would be extremely interesting.  
  
For observing people, I would like to talk to my group about this more, but I have some ideas, such as observing people reacting to different things and food at Lygon Street, China Town – and it would also be fascinating to see how people around immigration centres, to view how immigrants themselves are reacting to Melbourne, and how the immigration centres are helping them.  
  
For the experiment, I am expecting to do either more observing and talking to people at different markets, more commercial ones and smaller ones, and comparing the differences, or watching how people react to different buskers in Federation Square, to see if anyone from a different culture perhaps doing something different, gets treated differently.  
  
An interview with someone at an immigration centre would be a great contribution to our project, but if that doesn’t happen, it would also be great to talk to people from different ethnic organisations throughout the city.  
  
Despite my disappointment at not getting my first preference, I am very glad that we are doing this topic because it is so interesting, and there is so much to discover. I will have an enthusiastic approach to what we do, and will definitely try to put in at least my fair share of work. I can be hard-working, and won’t let my group down. I have a little experience with this topic, and am willing to share this with my group, maybe interviewing the people I know at the markets for our investigations. Multiculturalism in Melbourne is intriguing, and I can’t wait to start and discover new things about this topic.