## Do’s & Don’ts for English Club

**Before E-club**

* Do pray for I-students to come and be our guests. Invite students you know personally.
* Do pray for the Lord’s guidance in conversations, and that our guests would feel welcomed and refreshed from being with us!
* Do pray that other brothers and sisters in Christ will join us in this work each time! Invite them to events, too!
* Do offer rides if you have a car, but it’s best for guys to drive guys and vice versa unless you’re in a group. Don’t seek romantic relationships with i-students. Boundaries help in this area.
* Do learn some things about our guests’ countries and cultures.
  + Read in www.operationworld.org
  + Keep current in world news
  + Review the world map

**Club time!**

* Do greet international students as honored guests. Take the imitative in introductions.
  + Ask how they pronounce their name and how they would like to be called. Have a paper and pen ready to write names and other words (or use your phone ☺).
  + Don’t make up a “nickname” … let them offer.
  + Ask intro questions: (Where are you from, and what is the name of your city?What are you studying? What surprised you when you came to this country? What family do you have at home? What do you miss about your country/home?)
  + Ask open-ended questions. (What other areas of the US would you like to visit, why? If I were to visit your country what places would you recommend I visit?)
  + Spend majority of club time connecting with I-students versus team members.
  + Smile.
  + Don’t get into a political debates

**Communication**

* Do remember that English is a second language for our guests.
  + **Make a point of speaking slowly and distinctly.**
  + Don’t assume that their English is at a conversational level. Some are beginners and need us to speak slowly and without slang. More advanced students would love you to teach them more casual English.
  + Put our guests at ease concerning language. Tell them it is okay to interrupt if they don’t understand.
  + Compliment them in their ability to speak and study in a second language!
  + Avoid using idioms … or if you do ask your guest if they understand the idiom.
  + If our guests are new English language learners, use simpler words and say things in another way.
  + Our guests will usually appreciate our help in improving his/her English
  + Be a thoughtful listener.
* Do use your smart phone to help translate words/ see pictures (e.g. we were trying to say something about a squirrel and the student didn’t know the word…Google provided an instant picture).

**Culture learning and sharing**

* Do ask questions about their family, country and customs. For example:
  + What holidays to you celebrate, how do you celebrate them?
  + How does the food here differ from what you eat at home?
  + How do couples meet? How is a wedding done?
* Don’t ask questions that would provide an uncomfortable comparison. For example:
  + How big is your house compared to houses in the USA?
  + How many people in your country have two cars?
* Don't assume that all men and women shake hands. In some cultures, it’s not OK. Same with hugging.

**Sharing your faith**

* **Our guests are invited to e-club for conversation and friendship** not to be preached at. (See I Peter 3:15).
* Do build a friendship and pray that in your friendship, outside of e-club time, the Holy Spirit will lead you to talk about the Good News of Jesus.
* Do keep praying for your new friends and their families back home.
* If you would like ideas on how to share your faith, let one of the leaders know. We would love to help!

# Ideas for club time

* Offer to get some snacks or drinks with a student.
* Practice names and ask until you get it! Ask how she/he prefers to be called (don't *Americanize* their name).
* Take pictures together.
* Find each other on Face Book. Add them as a friend, as they may be hesitant to make the first move. It’s easy to do on your phones at E Club and it really helps in remembering names.
* Talk about weekend plans, offer to grocery shop together!
* Be authentic.
* Enjoy yourself and remember that humor does not always translate well. However, most internationals would like to understand American humor. Explaining a joke may ruin the humor but it is still a good opportunity to share language and culture.

**After Club time**

* Do pray by name for those you met!
* Do invite to do stuff together, but give them an easy way to refuse – for many cultures, they may feel pressured to do what you suggest because they now feel obligated to you. For example, say, “Would you like to join us next week at \_\_\_\_\_\_ or do you have too much work to do?”
* Invite to plays, concerts, movies, games etc.!
* Invite to birthday parties, future holiday celebrations like Thanksgiving, Christmas.
* Inviting to church with you *might be* okay, but please ask the Lord for discernment as to when is the best time to invite (sometimes, depending on the Lord and the other person, the invitation might be to just “come and observe” no pressure.)

**Remember English club is a ministry of hospitality; it is not a bait and switch tactic! We want to genuinely serve students in English conversation and friendship!**

We want international students to leave e-club each time feeling refreshed, so we labor and pray to that end! Remembering they are away from their home and community of friends.

If you have questions feel free to ask those leading!

Do come to ISM (International Student Ministry) prayer, equipping and encouragement times! Ask about when and where.