

Here's a brief overview of the Connect Program Compact to help you to get to know the Program and answer some frequently asked questions. If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to e-mail students@soliya.net. We at Soliya are very excited to work with you – see you online soon!

Program Description

Soliya's Connect Program Compact is an online cross-cultural education program that provides young adults with a unique opportunity to:

- Establish a deeper understanding for the perspectives of others around the world on important socio-political issues and why they feel the way they do;
- Develop “21st Century Skills” such as critical thinking and awareness, and cross-cultural communication skills.

Each group will meet online for real-time discussion once a week for two hours via Soliya's customized online rooms. All you need to do to join your group is to log on to the Soliya [website](#), go to the meeting room and turn on your webcam. In the Program, you'll have your own dialogue group with peers from North America, the Middle East and North Africa.



Commitments

- Prior to the Program you will participate in a brief online orientation and have access to prep packet.
- For the 4 weeks of the Program you will spend 2 hours per week meeting your group online. There will be short weekly challenges to prepare you for these discussions.
- You will write a reflection paper at the end of the Program.
- You will complete a brief post-program evaluation about your experience.

Basic proficiency with computers and good English communication skills are required.

Discussion Topics

Topics that you will discuss with your group include:

- Identity and communication
- Communication in the digital world
- Constructive communication and how to get there
- Topics of global and social importance, chosen by you with your group

You Will Gain

- A great introduction to cross-cultural communication and to current issues that impact communication in the digital world
- A chance to meet your peers around the world, share your opinions and hear their ideas about critical issues, and build strong contacts with future leaders
- The opportunity to gain and / or improve upon key 21st century skills such as leadership, analytical thinking, engaging across differences constructively, and communication skills

Reflection Paper

At the end of the Connect Program Compact, you will write an individual reflection paper on cross-cultural communication and your Soliya experience. In the paper you can reflect on your experience of engaging in cross-cultural communication in your dialogue group and showcase the most important lessons learnt during the Program. To help you in the reflection process, here are three questions that you should answer in your paper:

- **Question 1:** How does Soliya dialogue in the Connect Program Compact differ from other types of online communication you are familiar with? Why is it different?
- **Question 2:** What did you learn about the type of communicator you are in the digital world? (As media consumer, content producer, or sharer of content)
- **Question 3:** What can you do to foster constructive communication both online and in face-to-face interactions?

While the above questions should form the basis of your paper, we also encourage you to take this opportunity to review your overall experience, and reflect on other skills you've learned, challenges you've observed (in yourselves and / or in others), challenges you've faced, and moments, topics or discussions that were particularly impactful.

Tip! It is harder to reflect accurately on a 4-week process only at the end of the Program. Have a look at the three questions at the beginning of the Program, and note down thoughts and notes after every dialogue session to help you to write a better paper at the end. While it's not required *we highly recommend* you write down at least some observations and thoughts – this helps you track your learning and will make the paper writing much easier!

*There are **no set requirements** on length of the paper. Please make sure to check with your professor to see if he or she has a required minimum length.*

Submission information

When to submit: The assignment is due on **Sunday, April 29th**.

How to submit: Please attach the paper in an email, send it to submit@soliya.net and CC your professor.

Program Deadlines

The Connect Program Compact will run from **April 2nd to April 26^h**.

Week of April 2nd

Connect Program Compact begins. Introductions and the first week of online dialogue sessions.

Weeks of April 9th and 16th

Discussions will be based on the weekly themes related to different aspects of communication. You will have weekly challenges to introduce you to the topic.

Week of April 23rd

Last week of Program dialogue sessions. The assignment is due on Sunday, April 29th.

Week of April 30th

Complete online evaluation of the Program by Friday, May 4th.

About Soliya

Soliya staff is composed of a diverse team of talented individuals coming from Egypt, France, Finland, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, the Netherlands, Turkey, India, Bangladesh, and the United States of America. In addition to Soliya's staff members, Soliya's operations are based on an extraordinary network of highly trained facilitators from around the world, volunteering their time to catalyze constructive communication. To date, Soliya has worked with more than **9,750 students** from a diverse cross-section of over **185 institutions** in **30 countries**.

To learn more about Soliya, please go to www.soliya.net where you can read about Soliya's mission, programs, partners, facilitators and participants.

Need Help?

Contact Us:

Technical difficulties: student-tech@soliya.net

Attendance concerns: attendance@soliya.net

All other questions and concerns: students@soliya.net