

## Classification essay: Example #2

### First Families

"My host family took me to the beach yesterday. It was so nice!"

"Really? I envy you! My host family doesn't even feed me well!"

There are sometimes these kinds of conversations among the international students. Many international students, especially those who stay in America for a short time, prefer to stay with an American host family because they can experience American culture, and it is helpful to improve their English. However, not all international students get to stay with a pleasant host family. Having talked about host families with several of my acquaintances, I realized that there are different reasons why American host families invite an international student.

The first type of American host family is the host family who invites an international student because of money. Of course, this is one of the basic reasons why most American host families invite international students. However, this type of host family's purpose is only to earn money from an international student. When I studied in a private English academy, I met a student who was living with that kind of host family. She paid more than \$500 per month, but they'd never offered her good food. They always gave her only a slice of bread or a small portion of frozen food. She'd never seen milk or fruit in her host family's house. When she asked her host mother to give one more slice of bread, her host mother even answered no. Another student whom I met was living in a bad environment. For example, there was no lamp in his room and no telephone in his house. Of course, this type of host family doesn't treat its host students well, and they don't try to take care of their host students.

The second type of American host family is the host family who really wants to help international students. In the city where I am living now, there is a Christian group organized to help international students. All members in this Christian group try to help international students by offering a volunteer tutoring service or making a party for international students. Also, some members invite host students, and most of the students who find their host family in this group are satisfied with their family. Because their main goal is to help international students, these families don't receive much money from their students. They treat their students well, and try to help their host students to live in America, which is a very strange country for them. In my case, I also found a host family by contacting this group, and they were very helpful people. They gave me a lot of information about the area, like the locations of important buildings or the way to use public transportation. Also, they tried to make me experience American culture, so my host parents took me to a potluck party or invited me to a family dinner. Whenever I asked about English expressions, American customs, or my homework, they tried to help me in any way they could.

The third type of host family is the family who invites international students to stay out of their own loneliness. This is usually a family consisting of a retired couple or a single person. Some people feel lonely after retirement and have nothing to do, especially if their house is an empty nest. Therefore, therefore they host an international student and treat

the international student like their real daughter or son. This also applies to people who live alone. One of my friends who came to America to learn English lived with this kind of host mother. The host mother was divorced, and she wanted to host a student because she was lonely living alone. Therefore, she treated my friend like a real daughter. She took my friend everywhere she went and introduced my friend whenever they met new people. When my friend returned to her home after class, she and her host mother made dinner together, watched TV and talked for a long time.

Living with an American host family has many advantages. Especially for foreign students, having the experience of living with a host family is a huge support. However, whether the experience is pleasant or not depends on the attitudes of the students as well as the attitudes of the families themselves. Therefore, I hope international students living in America can meet host families who will enrich their experiences in this country and leave them with pleasant memories.

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