Discussion Topics

Volunteers do not need to have an organized “lesson” prepared or use any textbooks. The point is just to enjoy conversation and to maybe teach the international some fun slang or everyday American sayings and idioms. Hopefully, the volunteer can answer some of the international’s questions about English and living in the U.S. Some internationals may need help in a certain area such as pronunciation, while others may need help as they prepare for a proficiency test, big paper, or presentation. Here are a few topics I came up with that may be fun to discuss:

- Family
- Hobbies
- Hometowns
- Pets
- Weather
- Sports
- National holidays
- Different customs
- Food
- Favorite recipes
- Buying a car
- Getting insurance
- Going to a mechanic
- Getting a haircut
- Cell phones, cable, etc.
- TV shows
- Movies
- Music
- Technology
- What to do if you get sick or hurt
- What to do if you get pulled over or are in an accident
- Where to shop
- Tipping
- Regional accents
- Slang, including curse words and when and where they shouldn’t be used
- Life goals
- Fashion
- What’s taboo?
- Dating customs
- Religion
- Political/government systems
- Parenting customs
- Legal systems and individual rights
- Travel experience
- Field of study/work