



MONITEAU JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Mr. Page,

Oct. 3, 2003

It was our pleasure to have you and exchange student from Ecuador, Veronica Gonzales along with her host sister, Shannon Brandon speak to our classes here at Moniteau High School today. I must admit to being somewhat apprehensive during the initial phone call, wondering whether the purpose was more to recruit students rather than to inform them. However, as the day unfolded, I realized that I had definitely made the right decision. Not only did my students get to hear a native speaker and learn some great "real-life" examples of idioms, they also learned about Ecuador and its customs. They viewed Veronica's photos of the city of Cuenca. They learned a bit of the history of inter-cultural exchange, and what it takes to become an exchange student themselves. They crossed curriculum discussing the use of knowing a second language in different careers. There were many fascinating details presented through a successful question and answer session for each class. Most valuable was the opportunity for students to look at themselves not as "us and them" but to relate to Veronica and be simply "us". You even provided guide-lines for an essay where students can write about their impressions of all they learned today and yes it will count!

Thanks so much for a memorable experience and for the opportunity of a life-time for those students who may one day be or host an exchange student themselves. Good luck and most of all, keep up the wonderful work you are doing to promote world peace and understanding.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Donna Holmes