

Summary of interesting Research Project

The one paper that I found particularly interesting discussed the Muslim sentiments towards America's Middle Eastern foreign policy and in particular it's relationship with Israel. There seemed to be a very narrow viewpoint of America's foreign policy when applied to Muslims. However, there was one student, Osama, who took a very interesting viewpoint that was very refreshing to read. He expressed distaste towards the US's foreign policy, however he expressed something that should be fairly obvious, "Osama proposed that all parties involved should engage in political talks rather than military combat." This seems like a sentiment that should be fairly obvious, however it wasn't explicitly stated by any of the other interviewees in this paper.

It was also interesting (but not surprising) how passionate all of the interviewees about the US's foreign policy and how differently some of them expressed this passion. In this scenario Osama once again proved to be the expression. For the most part the other interviewees gave a sense that their passion was somewhat blind and that their support of Muslims around the world was in direct conflict with their American identity. Osama however conveyed a sense of passion through his careful diction and although he fervently supports all Muslims around the world he still identifies as an American because he recognizes how unique of a situation it is to have some of the freedoms that Americans have.

Overall, the paper did a reasonably effective job at analyzing the effects of US foreign policy on UIUC Muslim students' feelings about how they identify themselves as Americans and to determine if they feel alienated within their own country. It also provided some insights into how differently Muslim students at one university can view a situation.

