Refreshing Profiles

By Barb Kilkka
Objectives

1. Identify potential obstacles within a student’s profile
2. Identify student attributes within the profile that will be attractive
3. Provide examples of how to “refresh” a student profile to more effectively market the student
4. Revise profiles in order to minimize student preferences that may cause concerns for host families
Tips for this training

Please:

• Mute yourself to enhance listening for all
• Use the chat box to ask questions
• Midway we will take a break for questions
• There will be more time at the end for questions
What questions should you ask when evaluating a profile?
Questions

• Is it **lively**?

• Is it **intriguing** or is it boring?

• Is there a **benefit to family**?

• Can you **imagine the student** adapting well and getting involved in American lifestyle?

• What will a **family’s objection** to this kid be? How can it be overcome?

• Does it give you the **warm-fuzzies**?
Questions

• Can you imagine the kid’s personality?

• Is the photo a problem, and can you overcome it with words?

• Does the description seem “unique” and set the student apart from other selections in your field?
Rewrite Highlights

- Student Interests
- Helpful Descriptions
- When to Rewrite
- Sparkling Smile
Interests

US families don’t connect to...

- “Team sports aficionado”
- “Enjoys dance activities with friends”
- “Enjoys learning languages”
- “Enjoys racquet sports”
Carla, or Anton, as his family calls him, spends most of his free time participating in the Sea Boy Scouts. He is also very into mechanics and enjoys working on his moped. He is looking forward to mountain biking while in the States and hopes to spread the Finnish culture while living with his host family.

Lively, talkative, sociable and active: that’s Anton! His leadership skills and spirit of cooperation were developed through years spent participating in the Sea Boy Scouts. Maybe Carl (or Anton as his family calls him!) would enjoy getting involved in scouting here—where he could share some of the skills he has learned! …
Oscar is the oldest of 3 siblings and he enjoys taking care of his younger siblings. He also takes care of the family's dog. Oscar enjoys basketball and soccer and plays on his school's team. He wants to come to the US to "grow up, become independent from parents and learn better English".

Wanted: Close-knit family for this family-oriented Chilean boy! His most remarkable qualities are his respect, simplicity and sense of humor. As the oldest of 3 siblings, he enjoys taking care of the younger ones. He also enjoys playing soccer and basketball. Oscar's dog is an important part of the family. He wants to come to the US to "grow up, become independent from parents and learn better English". A caring host family will help in the adjustment process!
Helpful tips

✓ Benefits to host families

“A flute player is a possible marching band member.”

✓ Snappy open lines

“Music or sports? Stefan can’t decide so he pursues a passion for both”

✓ Describe “your best friend”

Personality characteristics = sounds like someone you know.

✓ Counteract possible objectives

“Behind this serious photo, you’ll find a young man with a dazzling sense of humor.”
MAREIKE

A natural with young kids! That's Mareike, a responsible, warm-hearted and humorous girl who helps organize frequent children's activities for a Christian youth group. She teaches the kids games, crafts and baking, and is an excellent babysitter! But Mareike also loves to dance. She has practiced video club dancing for 4 years and even took part in a performance during a youth fair. Mareike also runs almost every day (maybe a new member of your cross country team?). She lives with her parents and takes care of her cat and dog. She is very interested in computers. Her grades are very good and she is excited to join her host family in their church activities.
Bendix is a very active student with a wide variety of activities. He especially enjoys sports that include playing basketball, bicycling, soccer, dancing and much more. He hopes he will be able to continue many of his current hobbies, but if not, he plans to seek out new opportunities. While Bendix enjoys sports, he also is an excellent student. Bendix is responsible for taking care of his two cats, vacuuming, emptying the dishwasher. He also helps his grandmother in the garden when he visits her. His grandmother has nurtured his interest in nature and encouraged his desire to travel.

Maybe his ready smile and appreciative nature will brighten your year?
MARKUS

Markus is a grounded young man who finds enjoyment in a great many things. He admits that he enjoys his art and PE classes more than academics. He should be thrilled by the wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and elective classes most American high schools offer. "I'm so excited to see who will choose me!" says this grounded young man with a great many hobbies and interests. But as an actual juggler (your neighborhood kids will be intrigued!), he's obviously able to juggle all those interests! Because he admits that he enjoys his art and PE classes more than academics, he should be thrilled by the wide variety of extra-curricular clubs and elective classes most American high schools offer.
Helpful Tips

✓ Descriptive words
✓ Quotes
✓ Phrases from confidential section
✓ Highlight qualities that combat bias

Re-writes

➤ if student is unplaced after weeks of trying
➤ Specific for a particular family
➤ Doesn’t get you picturing the student
Ida is a cheerful girl who laughs a lot and enjoys showing affection within her close-knit family. She enjoys helping and working with people. She has been working in a nursing home for two years and has learned to handle difficult situations. She works a few hours on 4 days out of the week, helping and working with people. When she is not at school or at the nursing home, she likes to dance, swim, and eat ice cream. Her friends say she is honest.
August is a well-mannered and polite boy who moved to Denmark from Russia when he was 3. He loves to learn new languages and scored a 54 on his SLEP test. As a paper boy, he earns his own spending money and has learned to be responsible.

While in the U.S., August would like to play US football and go skiing. He hopes to be a journalist when he is older.

Already skilled at living in two cultures, Russian-born August is excited to add a third! A polite boy who always has a lot of friends, August moved to Denmark 12 years ago. Even though his family speaks Russian at home, he is one of the best at his school in Danish. August likes to play lots of sports and would like to learn about new ones here: maybe football? maybe skiing? or whatever his new family might suggest! He’s also an avid sports fan and will enjoy watching games here in person.

Arthur is an only child who lives with his mother and visits his father nearby very often. One special dream is to be a brother at last if there are siblings (or pets!) in his host family - however, August says he is flexible and is even willing to live in a single person placement.
Jiayun, or Karen as she likes to be called, is an active student who likes to play badminton and swim. Her other hobbies include singing, listening to music and playing the piano. “Karen” is willing to attend her host family’s religious services once a week and hopes to learn as much of the culture as she possibly can. She also hopes to improve on her English as her goal one day is to become a translator.

Just call her Karen! Her teachers say that her host family and American classmates are sure to love this optimistic, bright and sociable girl! In her spare time, she is a casual participant at badminton or whatever friends might suggest. Her other hobbies include singing, listening to music and playing the piano. Maybe she can join your choir? Karen is willing to attend her host family’s religious services once a week and hopes to learn as much of the culture as she possibly can. She also hopes to improve on her English as her goal one day is to become a translator.
Sparkle in the eyes

Photo shows:
- Friendliness
- Open
- Enthusiasm
- Natural
- Easy-going
Questions about profile writing can be directed to Jeanne Pierce
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File questions go to District Registration Specialist.