For spring break in 2005, I went on a trip through the business department to Munich, Germany. To gain credit for the course, each student had to attend all of the visits in Germany, keep a journal and upon return to Monmouth, write a paper. In addition to that, I wrote an extra paper which pertained more to my majors of Communication and Public Relations. At the time, I had the career goal of being an event planner. Therefore, I related the German lifestyle to the American lifestyle.

In doing this paper, I was able to deeply examine communication in different areas, specifically the two different countries. In doing so, I showed the knowledge I had gained from my visit to Germany. I was able to compare Germany to America stating, “it was typical to hear American music, that of which most teenagers here listen to everyday.” Most of the comparisons consisted of children and teenagers. They were visible in style, celebrity idols, and music.

Outside of these comparisons were many differences. The overall culture of Germany was very different than in America. I explained this by contrasting the rate at which people accomplish everyday tasks. I stated in my paper, “After bringing your meal, they would not come back until much after you were finished eating and sometimes, we would actually have to get them for the bill.” Not only were the waiters in restaurants much slower in Germany than America, but the overall style of living was slower paced.

Through my experiences, I learned that the communication style is very different as well. Aside from the main fact that the languages are different, the meaning behind the language is also different. I explained how at restaurants in Germany, one does not need to be seated but rather find a place alone, sometimes sitting with another group of people. If with a group of people one does not know, in America, most people would start small talk. In Germany, however, I explained, “When a German says “How are you?” they expect a detailed response.” This goes along the lines of their slower culture. They therefore have more time to listen to those detailed responses.

Another difference I learned was about appearance. I explained in my paper that, “it is much more rigid in Germany. Women dress in dark suits and blouses. Men dress in dark, solid suits with white shirts and plain ties.” This shows how the culture in Germany is much more conservative and lacks as many options as in America.
All of the differences stated relate to the field of communication, specifically event planning. If traveling in that field, the event planner needs to learn about the culture in order to adapt accordingly. Time and energy needs to be focused on accomplishing the job, not figuring out the culture. Also, one will need to be able to communicate. If the language is unknown, nonverbal communication will be very important. Lastly, attire is part of the culture and therefore would need to be known as well.

These relate specifically to event planning along with many more differences. As stated in the paper, “When arriving for an event in Germany, you are to arrive early.” There are many rules and regulations that differ in Germany than that in America. The main focuses in event planning are time and tasks, both which are extremely important in the German culture. After visiting Germany, studying the culture, and writing the paper, I learned that I have many important German qualities in me. Those qualities which became apparent could help me in the future when looking for a job in the communication field.