AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

Perspectives from Coeur d’Alene

In “Our Private Idaho,” you heard residents of Coeur d’Alene discuss changing demographics and what they mean to the people of the town. With a partner, please choose two people from the list below who might have different viewpoints on diversity in Coeur d’Alene.

• First, Student A plays the role of the first person: _________________________.
  Student B conducts the interview.
• Next, Student B plays the role of the second person: _________________________.
  Student A conducts the interview.

As you conduct your interviews, please remember the interviewing techniques used by host Maria Hinojosa and described in your Interview Tips handout.

COEUR D’ALENE RESIDENTS

Kim Boland, a white real estate broker and former Los Angeles law-enforcement officer
Quote: It was just easy. [In northern Idaho], you can just run into people who are very same, like-minded.

Patrick Boland, Kim’s husband, a white former Los Angeles law-enforcement officer
Quote: If [the community] changes, it changes. But hopefully, the values will stay the same, and you know, people won’t move here and try to change us.

Kelly Boland, Kim and Patrick’s daughter, a white student at a private Christian high school
Quote: I tried to get my parents to let me go to public school. ... I wanted to see a different perspective on things.

Norm Gissel, a white lawyer
Quote: [Some of the “white flight” people] feel disenfranchised and bewildered by the cultural changes that have swept this nation since the 1960s. ... Part of this greater America that we see on the horizon, and it is arriving daily, is just simply waiting for old white guys like me to die off.

Patricia Gonzales, a Latina co-owner of a Mexican restaurant
Quote: Some of [the customers] didn’t even come to eat, they only come to support us, saying, “We’re with you guys, we don’t want you guys to leave, we want you guys here.”

Construction Workers, Latino, not identified by name
Quote: The discrimination here is pretty bad, so sometimes we have to hide. ... You can’t speak Spanish here. They say, “Go back to your country. Go back where you come from.”

Joshua Hoston, an African-American firefighter
Quote: I was proud to be a firefighter from Coeur d’Alene. I happened to be black. I didn’t want someone to think, “Oh, affirmative-action kid.”
Sarah Hoston, Joshua’s wife, a Mexican-American mother of two children
Quote: I think there’s still a lot of opportunities to educate people. ... What’s going to happen to our girls if the mind-sets don’t change a little bit?

Kristen Odenthal, a white teacher and former Peace Corps volunteer
Quote: I realize we have a lot of work to do here. I felt education is where I need to be. Education is where change happens.

John Alden, a white teacher and descendant of colonists who came to America on the Mayflower
Quote: I think we’ve left out the basic Christian principles that really helped us get started as a nation.