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### Reflection

For this project, I chose to interview my grandma Ruth Chang about a program she started with my grandpa in 1995 that was focused on lessening conflict on a global scale. My grandpa, Jerry Chang, who has since passed away, saw the Rwandan Genocide take place, and this, among other things, sparked his idea for the Youth Ambassadors, a program that would bring together college students from 50 different nations in a sort of summer camp. However, instead of being focused on entertainment, this summer camp was focused on equipping the young people to be leaders for social change in their communities. It ties in perfectly with Bell Hooks' idea of a "love ethic". She defines it as something that "presupposes that everyone has the right to be free, to live fully and well" (Hooks 87). This is the exact goal of the Youth Ambassadors. The original proposal from 1995 includes "promoting world peace and understanding" and "developing future leaders of the world who have compassion for the poor and needy and will stand for justice". Justice was a primary buzzword of the Youth Ambassadors, but not justice as in upholding of the law, justice as in the inherent right that every person has to live free of discrimination and conflict. This was the primary goal of the Youth Ambassador Program, and the reason my grandparents took on the struggle of taking 50 young people from 50 countries who all spoke different languages and forming them into a cohesive

group, in order to illustrate the commonality that all people share, no matter how different they appear to be. The slogan was “seek life’s common grounds”. The Youth Ambassadors were trained in public speaking and singing and performance, and they toured many countries spreading a message of peace and harmony. And when they returned to their home countries, they continued to carry on the work of conflict resolution. Every year, 50 new young people were brought onto the program to become ambassadors of justice, and over the course of the program's lifespan there were hundreds of members spanning 61 countries.

Despite the first group being initiated 25 years ago, I believe it is still a current act of resistance and resilience, because the seeds that were planted in the youth back then have only blossomed, and the members remain closely connected. Today, many members of the Youth Ambassadors have been instrumental in the social progress of their countries. For example, one member is a community development worker in the Philippines helping prevent child trafficking, another member based in Australia owns a consultant business working to eliminate modern slavery in supply chains. Yet another member works in South Africa to provide women’s products to underprivileged girls so that they don’t have to skip school. These are only a few examples from one year of the program. Needless to say, the impact the program has had on the global community is enormous.

In terms of my process, I interviewed my grandma over Zoom, and then chopped up the recording, using that as a baseline for my project. I thought that a video essay would be the best format because I had the original Youth Ambassador promotional video from 1995 which opens with a message from my grandfather, so I knew I wanted to use the footage from that. I decided to add subtitles because English is not my grandma’s first language obviously, but I also thought

it gave the video essay a more professional feel. The ending sequence of the video consists of headshots from some hundred members of the Youth Ambassadors, who have already agreed to have their photos viewed by the public.

## Citations

- Mitton, P. (2009, October 15). *World Vision Youth Ambassadors 1995*. Facebook. Retrieved October 14, 2020, from <https://www.facebook.com/591448291/videos/153720233291/>
- Hooks, B. (2000). *All About Love: New Visions*. New York: Harper.
- Chang, J. (1994). *A Proposal: World Vision Youth Ambassadors*. Taiwan: World Vision of Taiwan.