

GSA Discussion Questions!!

1. Holidays/Celebrations:

- a. Holidays are coming around the corner, so are there any particular traditions that you have for Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa etc.?
- b. Do people have regional Thanksgiving traditions? If yes, what are they?

2. Education:

- a. Navigating a bad relationship between MS and PhD advisor and student. I think there needs to be more guidance in the department about what actions MS and PhD students should take if they find themselves in a toxic lab environment. This is not necessarily sexual harassment (which has clear recourse), but rather things like PIs who are verbally abusive, play favorites, or overwork their grad students.
- b. How do I advocate for myself to an advisor that doesn't have time for me?
- c. In situations of power, how do you convey to someone that assumes that they are higher on societal scale than yourself that you are valuable and that your insights matter?
- d. What is the best thing about your school (this could be Cornell and/or CEE)?
- e. If you could change one thing about the school, what would it be?
- f. What can be set goals to make students feel more seen and heard?
- g. Why aren't my advisor and research group connected outside of research? How do I combat the isolation?

- h. How do you communicate to a person of power that you do not understand something without looking weak?
- i. In situations of power, how do you convey to someone that assumes that they are higher on societal scale than yourself that you are valuable and that your insights matter?

3. Culture/Life:

- a. What approaches would you suggest be done at the school to promote cross-cultural understanding?
- b. What is the best way to communicate with someone that thinks differently than you do?
- c. What has impacted your perspective from another culture that you wish to integrate into your own?
- d. What tools can we use to connect not only diverse students but research interests in a field that sometimes has little overlap?
- e. How do we make our School more welcoming for a diverse population?
- d. Why is it important to understand and respect people's *pronouns*?
- e. What place had history (of your country, but also worldwide) in your education? Does it impact you in any way now?
- f. Tangentially, I am curious about how different people treat their work/life balance.
- g. How do you deal with political correctness in US society, particularly when it comes to maintaining a respect for those who are different than you yet still being able to navigate difficult conversations ?”

