



presentation

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# Story

Melissa Park is an international transfer student from Korea who came to the US to pursue her Bachelor's degree at Georgia State University. Melissa **has been having a hard time adjusting to a new environment.** She has been suffering from **depression and anxiety disorders** since she was in Korea. She is **new to the culture**, and she also **missed the opportunity to make as many friends as a freshman during a freshman orientation would do because she is a transfer student.** Melissa claims that she is "stuck in between" a **group of Korean and a group of non-Korean, Anglophone students.** She feels she is a **close friend with neither of the groups.** From time to time **she is afraid she would end up having no close friend in this country she is not familiar with.** She would like to reach out to Anglophone students so that she could strengthen her English skill but **she is afraid their Anglophone peer would make fun of her accents.** Her reading, writing, and listening skill

is decent but her speaking skill is not. **Whenever she has to explain herself, she would much rather write it down than to verbalize it.** All these things on top of her **academic, and financial struggles** make her feel so stressed and worsen her depression and anxiety. She thought of going to the counseling service available within the school but she did not end up going because **she would feel pressured to say everything on spot and forget most of the things she would like to say.** Despite her hardships, **she couldn't tell much about them to her parents because most of the time they do not understand much about the cultural differences from Korea to the US.** Since her parents live on the other side of the globe, there is only so much their parents can do. She also would prefer not to share it with her parents because she doesn't want her parents to think they have wasted so much of their money to make her go to the country she is not familiar with and suffer so much.

# Pain Points

1. Hard time adjusting to a new environment with new language and culture
2. No place for her to express her thoughts without having those anxiety and pressure to express her complex thoughts verbally on the spot
3. Not feeling comfortable verbalizing her thoughts in English on the spot, feeling more comfortable writing her thoughts down rather than speaking

# Website

[brdgit.webflow.io](http://brdgit.webflow.io)

# Brag Points

1. Providing a stepping stone for international students to express their thoughts in written language rather than having that pressure to verbally do so on the spot in the language they are not familiar verbalizing with
2. Providing a bridge between linguistically and culturally struggling international students who and the counselors; between ESL international students and Anglophone students
3. Providing a safe and encouraging social platform for isolated international students

# Proof of Concept

[https://invis.io/V57HRDYME#/162506957\\_Splash\\_Screen](https://invis.io/V57HRDYME#/162506957_Splash_Screen)