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As a first generation child, it's different to be raised with parents immigrating to America. What would your parents do to ensure a better life in the US? Would your parents encourage you to speak both languages or would they encourage only English? Would your parents want you to remember their culture, as well as the American culture, or stray from your roots and become an American? Or are you finding yourself in between these two? I analyzed these different outcomes within my autoethnography using a reflexive dyadic interview method.

As a first generation child, I grew up in a traditional Vietnamese home but was immersed in American culture. I spoke Vietnamese at home and English at school. However, my mother was adamant on retaining the traditions and holidays celebrated in Viet Nam so I participated in all the events that were held at my local Buddhist temple. At this temple, I also learned how to write and speak Vietnamese. Throughout my childhood, I found myself at equilibrium between the two cultures.

To get another perspective, I interviewed a friend I met at Emory. Also a first generation student, I had a predisposition that he would have a similar story to mine. I was surprised when differences were mentioned. His family was more educated; my family worked in rice fields. He wasn't fluent in his mother language; I was. His parents became doctors; my mother never graduated high school. Albeit the differences, there was a common goal when our parents ventured to America: to live the American Dream. My friend's parents and my parents got to where they are today through hard work and dedication. Our parents still remain strong connections to their roots and instill the values upon us that were instilled upon them. Although my friend and I came from different families, we could relate well with our immigrant families.

I also conducted an interview with my friend whom I have known since I was a toddler. She grew up in the same house as I, for her mother couldn't find stability to raise a child, and we had a strong bond with each other. Knowing her background, I wondered if the nature in which we were raised influenced us differently. We reminisced on all the events we did together at the temple, all the dances we choreographed for the Lunar New Year, and the delicious Vietnamese food we were craving. My friend generally had the same outlook on many things as I such as: the importance of maintaining our culture, the importance of knowing our language, and the importance of taking care of our family for all the years that they took care of us. She made me realized, despite our strong encouragement of cultural ties, we could have both American and Vietnamese culture.

The first generation of children is a hybrid between traditional and contemporary. This generation has managed to synthesize millennia of established traditions with a culture that has been established for only two centuries. The complexity of this generation was overwhelming, yet enlightening to research.

