

Hi,

My name's Marta and I'm seventeen. I live with my mom, dad and sister. My dad is a businessman and he works really hard everyday. We get along pretty well, even though sometimes our opinions are completely the opposite. Anyway, I really like his sense of humour. My mom, well she's a nurse and I love her very much, our relationship is great! We are both a bit sarcastic, which ends up leading to a lot of laughs. Then there's Joana, my younger sister, she's also a student (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and we're quite close but on and off we clash, because she's right now going through one of those so-called "teenagers crisis".

Since my parents work really hard, we don't have a lot of free-time or go on holiday together very often, but when we do it, which is often once a year, we choose to travel together throughout Europe (last year we went to France) and it usually turns out an unforgettable experience because we run very tight schedules so as not to miss a bit of what we planned in advance and that puts everybody on the move. Other than that our routine is basically school and work except for a quick escape now and then at the weekend!

I live in the countryside, and it's very peaceful. However, I go to school in the city, so I get to experience a bit of both, which is great.

Well, I can tell you that I am a cheerful person, hard-working and friendly. People say that I'm easy going and cope with the unexpected easily. I like going through new experiences because I'm very open-minded. I've always been a "quiet" teenager and staying at home, having fun with my family and enjoying the company of friends are my cup of tea. I'm in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and I'm doing "scientific subjects" (Maths, Physics, Geology and, of course, Portuguese and

Psychology). In the future I'd like to work in an area related to journalism or law (I still haven't made up my mind).

I love music and I enjoy listening to almost every type. I also like cinema and I absolutely adore books! In my free-time I enjoy hanging out with my friends, visiting new places, doing voluntary work and occasionally playing the guitar. So, I'm really lucky to have so many good friends. They are pretty unique, because we are all very different from each other, be it terms of opinions, leisure activities or fashion. There is one thing my friends and I have got in common, which is music. We get together a lot just to play and sing, sometimes outdoors.

I found out about this programme when I was reading through a magazine in the school library before a Math class. It got me thinking about how I have always wanted to visit the US, because I love to know new places and meet people, and your country's mix has always fascinated me. On top of that English has always been one of my favorite subjects. After reading about the programme I began wondering what an amazing experience it would be as it would make me grow and gain more independence.

I hope to have the chance to explore new cultures, to experience other lifestyles and get an opportunity to improve my academic skills. In exchange for that I'm ready to share my cultural background (I can cook really tasty Portuguese food!) and I'm willing to make this stay in the US a really wonderful experience.

Well, I look forward to meeting you, and I'm sure we'll get along great. Can't wait to get to know you!