

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

*An exploration of the similarities and differences of Paris, France and New York,
New York*

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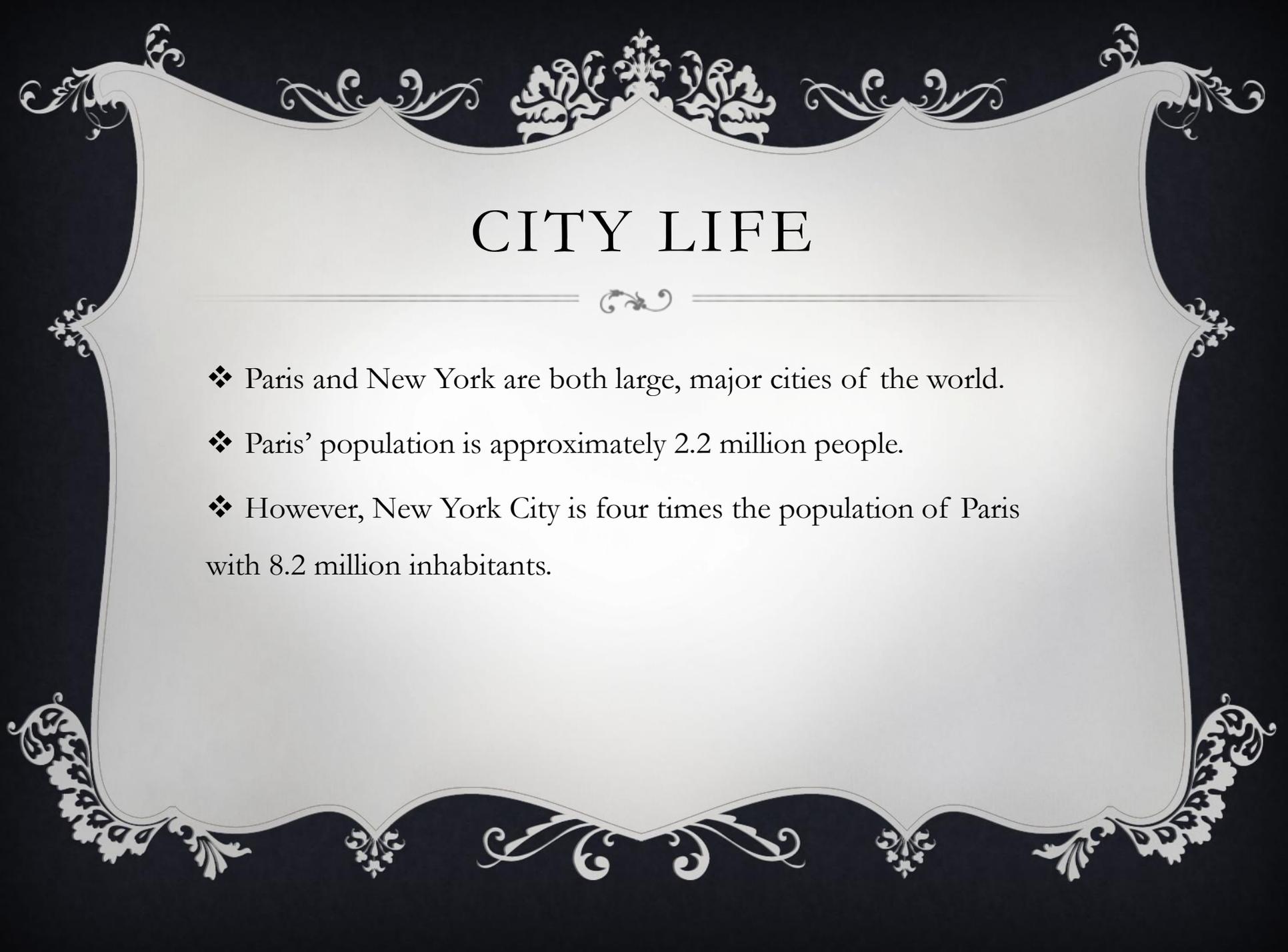
INTRODUCTION

❖ I have visited New York City and Paris each one time in my life. Before going to Paris, I was asked to determine which city of the two I like better. I absolutely loved New York City when I went, which made me realize I am a city girl and would one day love to live in a big city, as opposed to the suburbs. Before going to Paris, I thought the two cities would be completely different. However, I was wrong and Paris reminded me a lot of NYC. The similarities and differences made it almost impossible to determine which city I like better. They are alike but also have unique differences. I have fallen in love with both Paris and New York which inspired me to explore their similarities and differences.

QUESTIONS

- ❖ In what ways are the cities of Paris and New York alike in terms of size, lifestyle, culture, and immigration?
- ❖ What are the differences between Paris and New York?





CITY LIFE

- ❖ Paris and New York are both large, major cities of the world.
- ❖ Paris' population is approximately 2.2 million people.
- ❖ However, New York City is four times the population of Paris with 8.2 million inhabitants.



GLOBAL CITIES

- ❖ Out of 100+ global cities, Paris and New York are both listed among the top 5 global cities.
- ❖ According to Saskia Sassen a global city is defined as, “a significant production point of specialized financial and producer services that make the globalized economy run.”

GLOBAL CITIES II

❖ A few characteristics of global cities include:

- Contributes significant financial output to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the city, region, or nation.
- Influences and participates in international events and world affairs
- Location of an international organization's headquarters
- Tourism
- Location of renowned cultural institutions (ex: museums, theaters, etc.)
- Lively cultural scene (film festivals, night life, street performers, parades)
- Has a major international airport
- Has a mass transit/transportation system



❖ Paris and New York both meeting the requirements to be global cities explains reasons behind their commonalities.

❖ Next, similarities and differences of Paris and New York will be broken down in further detail.



IMMIGRATION: PARIS

- ❖ Before taking the Global Awareness: France class and actually visiting the country, I was unaware that immigration was so prominent in Paris and that the city was so culturally diverse.
- ❖ After taking this class, my idea of the “typical” Parisian walking down the street wearing a beret and holding a baguette was no longer the image I had.
- ❖ I learned that in fact there is no “typical” Parisian and they all come from many backgrounds.

IMMIGRATION: PARIS II

- ❖ Specifically, on this trip to Paris we visited the African quarter, Latin quarter, Chinatown, and Little India.
- ❖ Interestingly, we learned that in France they do not ask for one's ethnicity or religion. However, they can ask for one's birthplace— this reveals that Paris has one of the most multi-cultural populations in Europe.
- ❖ Many immigrants in France are from Asia and Africa and 37% of the country's immigrants live in Paris.



IMMIGRATION: NYC

- ❖ “..Most immigrant friendly city in the world.” –Mayor Bloomberg
- ❖ New York City is also the most popular city in the US for illegal immigrants to reside.
- ❖ 75% of the immigrants that live in New York State, live in NYC.

CHINATOWN: NYC



CHINATOWN: NYC

- ❖ There are 7 different Chinatowns in New York City (out of the 9 total in New York State).
- ❖ NYC has the largest Chinese population outside of China.
- ❖ Chinese immigration in NYC expanded after the U.S. Immigration Act of 1965 was passed, which removed laws against immigration.

CHINATOWN: PARIS





CHINATOWN: PARIS

- ❖ Contrary to NYC, Chinatown in Paris has a variety of Asian communities, not just Chinese.
- ❖ Chinatown includes Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and other Asian cultures.
- ❖ Paris' Chinatown is the largest Chinatown in Europe.



MORE IMMIGRATION

- ❖ Paris also has a large African immigrant population due to the French colonization of some African countries.
- ❖ African immigrants of Paris are native to Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, etc.
- ❖ Many immigrants come to New York from Central and South America.



IMMIGRATION DIFFERENCES

❖ In Paris, immigrants suffer from racism and discrimination.

❖ In New York, the immigrants are protected.

-Mayor Bloomberg of NYC, stated that although there are many illegal immigrants and even legal immigrants, they play a vital role in the economy by working, and New York's economy would suffer if they were forced to leave.

RACISME EN PARIS



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- ❖ I thought it was very interesting that immigrants in Paris were not afraid to stand up for themselves and make their voices heard.
 - ❖ There was an array of posters and graffiti on the walls of immigrant neighborhoods, fighting against discrimination.
 - ❖ Members of immigrant neighborhoods live in poorer areas of Paris in government high-rise housing.

IMMIGRANT HOUSING PARIS





JOBS IN NEW YORK

- ❖ While I am sure that racism exists in New York as well, a more prominent aspect of immigration is their contribution to the economy.
- ❖ Immigrants of New York City make up more of the workforce than natives.



LIFESTYLE

- ❖ Being from the South, I am used to a calm, slow paced city with friendliness from strangers.
- ❖ However, as I went to Paris, the culture and lifestyle there quickly reminded me of the northern culture in America.
- ❖ After visiting both NYC and Paris, I can attest that both cities are extremely busy and fast paced. They both have large populations and huge crowds of people walking the streets and riding the metros. The large crowds made me wonder how any claustrophobic person could survive in either city.
- ❖ The people in Paris are not the friendliest either. They have the same personas as “New Yorkers”, who can be characterized as reserved or even rude.



FASHION CAPITALS

- ❖ Paris and New York are two of the “big four” fashion capitals of the world.
- ❖ Both cities have a major influence on world fashion and have large fashion industries.
- ❖ Paris is the home of several fashion houses. Also, well known luxury brands such as Chanel, Dior and Louis Vuitton originated in France.
- ❖ Paris and NYC also both hold Fashion Weeks.





TOURISM

- ❖ New York and Paris also share the common characteristic of being touristy areas
- ❖ Paris is the most visited city in the world with 75 million tourists per year.
- ❖ Both cities have many tourist attractions but the most popular are the Statue of Liberty in New York and Le Tour Eiffel in Paris.



SAFETY

- ❖ While Paris and New York are two major cities, they are both relatively safe to be such large cities.
- ❖ The first day that we arrived in Paris, we were told by our tour guide that Paris is very safe- the citizens are not even allowed to carry weapons. Aside from the infamous pickpockets, crime rates in Paris are low.
- ❖ New York is the safest major city in the United States, with crime rates decreasing to this day.



TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ The Paris Metro and New York Subway are very similar. They are both very big and have many lines, contrary to MARTA in the south which has only four lines.
- ❖ Public transportation is widely used in both cities.
- ❖ While in Paris, I noticed that they have crazy drivers just like New York. However, there seemed to be less taxis than in NY.
- ❖ Also, Parisians walk a lot and many of them do not own cars. This is also true in NYC, it is common to not drive up north.



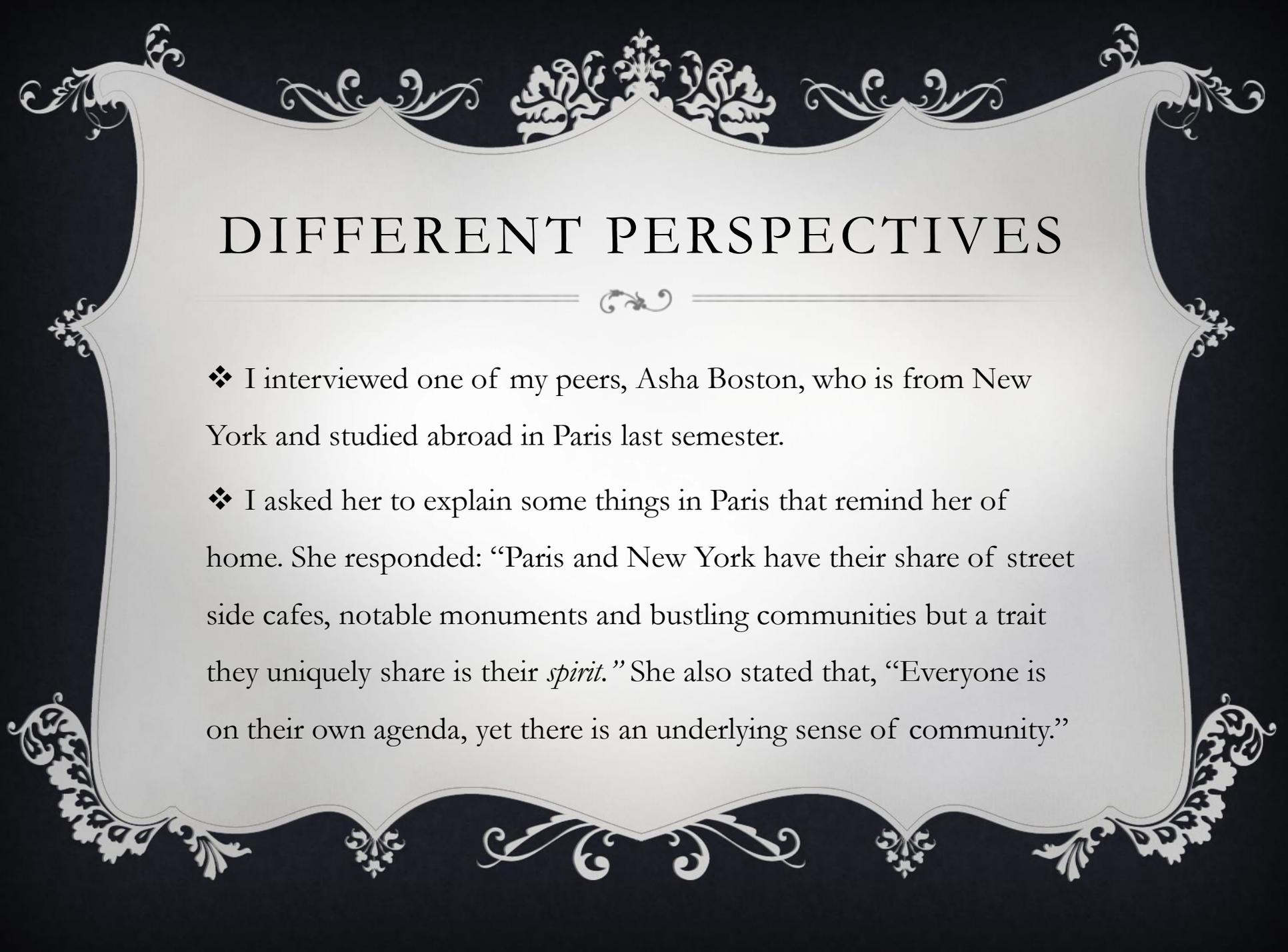
ARCHITECTURE

- ❖ The architecture in Paris also reminded me of the architecture in New York.
- ❖ The triangular shaped buildings as well as building with many windows and balconies are prominent in both cities.
- ❖ Paris and New York also have wide sidewalks for the large walking crowds.
- ❖ There are also many bridges and statues/monuments throughout Paris and NYC.
- ❖ They both also share the similar characteristic of having skyscrapers.









DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

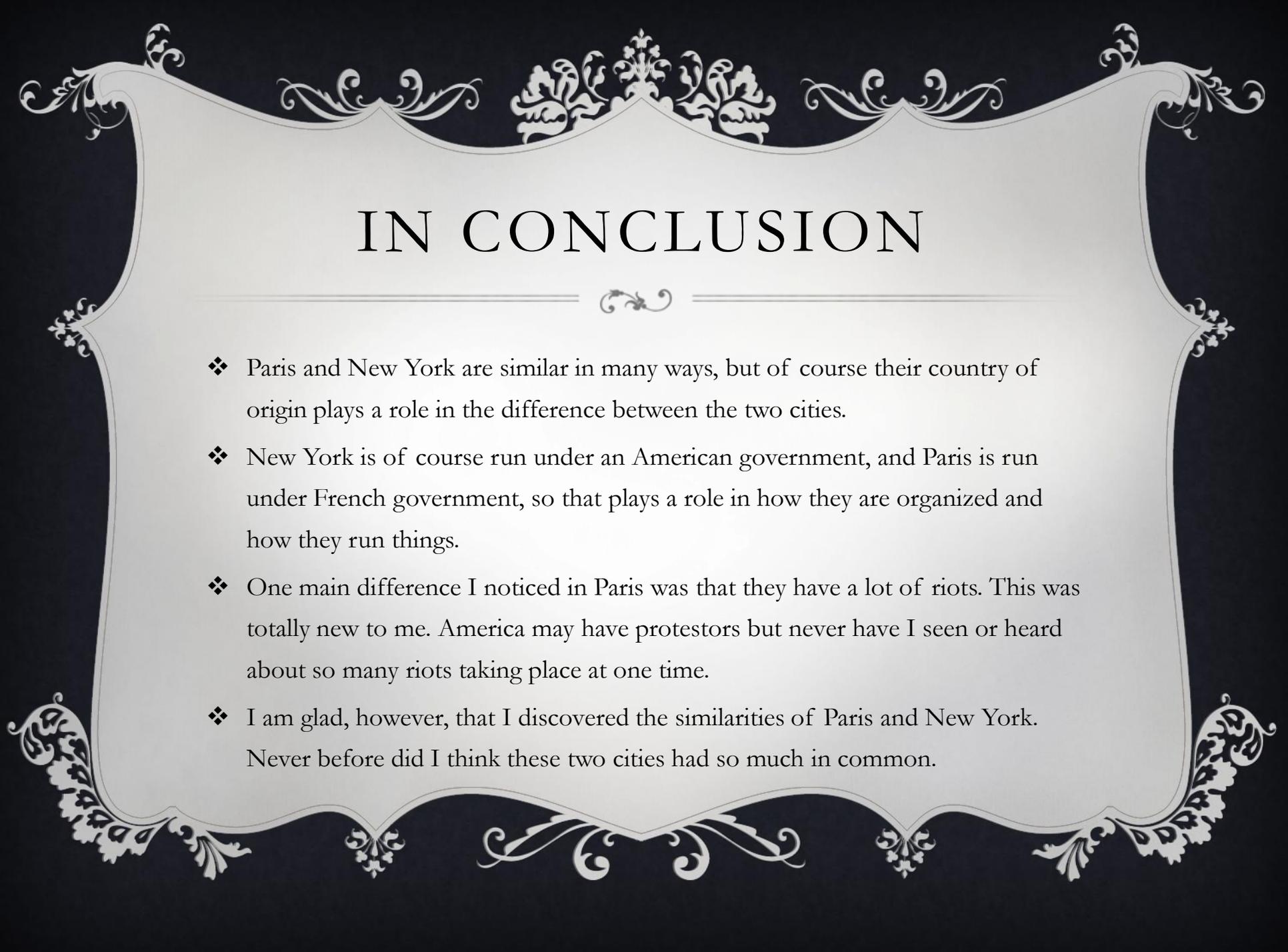
- ❖ I interviewed one of my peers, Asha Boston, who is from New York and studied abroad in Paris last semester.
- ❖ I asked her to explain some things in Paris that remind her of home. She responded: “Paris and New York have their share of street side cafes, notable monuments and bustling communities but a trait they uniquely share is their *spirit*.” She also stated that, “Everyone is on their own agenda, yet there is an underlying sense of community.”

INTERVIEW CONT..

- ❖ I also asked her if it was hard to adjust to Paris since the two cities are similar.
- ❖ Overall, she said it was pretty easy to adjust. One thing in her answer that stood out to me was when she said, “The diversity, I’m sure has a lot to do with why I didn’t feel out of place.”
- ❖ I found it very profound that the diversity of Paris was something that made her feel comfortable, welcomed, and at home. It was also remarkable to me that her answer overlapped with our study and purpose of the trip.

INTERVIEW STILL CONT...

- ❖ Lastly, I asked Asha about her opinion of the major differences between Paris and New York.
- ❖ Her response was, “To be honest, the biggest difference is that in Paris everyone speaks French and the streets are smaller. Otherwise, Paris and New York are fairly very similar.” She also mentioned that they have the “Same appreciation for arts, culture and people and same witty obnoxious “my city is better than yours” attitude, I love it!”



IN CONCLUSION

- ❖ Paris and New York are similar in many ways, but of course their country of origin plays a role in the difference between the two cities.
- ❖ New York is of course run under an American government, and Paris is run under French government, so that plays a role in how they are organized and how they run things.
- ❖ One main difference I noticed in Paris was that they have a lot of riots. This was totally new to me. America may have protestors but never have I seen or heard about so many riots taking place at one time.
- ❖ I am glad, however, that I discovered the similarities of Paris and New York. Never before did I think these two cities had so much in common.

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FIN

❖ Merci pour un bon voyage!

