

## Group Three Commentary

Please access the **transcripts** of your Guttman group and your Egyptian counterparts through these links.

[Guttman Interviews/Photos/Transcripts and Consent Forms](#)

[American University of Cairo Transcripts](#)

By Sunday 10/24 reflect on the transcripts in your Groups Google Doc. On your own, under your name in this shared google doc you must...

1. Write one paragraph about the similar, and/or different, challenges small businesses in each city faced.
2. Under at least two of your classmates' or Egyptian counterparts responses, in a sentence or two reflect on what they said. Make sure to end your comments with your name to get credit for your work.

Antiques, Art Galleries and Old Bookstores -- AUC 4

1. Aya Gamal
2. Eleanor Mohamed
3. Habiba Emad
4. Rana Ali
5. Salma Awad

Guttman Group 4: Nawaf -- 141 W. 231st St., Bronx NY 10463

6. DeAnte Turner Green ~ Based on the transcripts and video recording from Nyc and Cairo I can see there are some similarities and differences between the two locations. For example, from our interview I know that Nawaf, who is the business owner of Quick Stop deli, has great service for customers who come in and out of his store which means that over time himself and the surrounding communities build a reapore. There is a relationship between community and local business. As of in Cairo their transcript says “ Unfortunately there is not a collaboration between the shops here because most of the shops here are not working ...financially capable of joining events.” This shows that sometimes businesses are struggling to keep customers and one thing that I think we can agree on is how COVID has impacted these businesses all over the world financially and economically.

I agree, the relationships between these business owners' clientele is evident in the stories they shared, it shows a great connection between them. Covid seems to be a major contributing factor to the struggles of these small business owners. -Ariel Lewis

7. Jefferson Campoverde After reading the transcripts from my group and the Cairo group, I can tell there are some similarities and differences with the group of

Cairo and group of NY for example one similarity is that they both care about treating their customers with respect and believe that having respect with their customers is what helps there place be better. Other similar things is that both faced problems during the pandemic and their stores also had some falls. Also how the bookstore faced a big challenge with them selling books and all simply because now there are free books or amazon where you can purchase them so people don't really go to bookstores which affected the owners store. Some differences are that one is a deli and the other a book store one serves a purpose of either feeding the customers or any thing necessary while the bookstore is there to only sell books and for people to get educated.

8. Devin Mendoza~ During these times challenges are surely expected with a pandemic and all. Similar challenges they would face would be financial issues. With Covid-19 shutting many businesses down due to the fact people are scared. Racial discrimination is an issue they face but surprisingly enough it is not a major issue. Different issues such as curfew financially impact these businesses even further.
9. Anais Amen - There are many similarities and differences between these two businesses, I'll start with the similarities. One similarity about the challenges these two businesses faced, were that the book store was struggling with getting clients, due to the fact that this generation is evolving and changing and people don't read physical books like they use too, and the deli were struggling with people coming in due to COVID-19, people weren't going out as much and buying food from deli's, so both businesses weren't getting many customers. Another common struggle they both face is COVID-19, they both have been affected by the pandemic, which both have been affected financially. One difference these businesses face is that the bookstore mainly get females, but although both don't get many customers the deli still has a higher chance of getting more customers than the bookstore because they get males and females, and not just one gender.

With Covid-19 and us living in a digital era book stores are most likely taking a major hit financially wise.~Devin Mendoza

I noticed most of the interviewees also do not publicize their bodegas or small businesses which could be even more challenging when Covid hit because they had to rebuild their previous clientele. I would also agree that Cairo business owners have more of a gender based clientele, whereas in New York the clientele varies from being male or female. -Ariel Lewis

Guttman Group 5: Zaid -- 9 East Prospect Ave, Mount Vernon, NY

Yes they mentioned that technology somehow impacts their business because people start reading online. This is also related to bodegas owners in NYC because some old bodegas don't have the ability to post their products online or make deliveries. - Amjad

10. Ariel Lewis- Small businesses in both New York and Cairo have shared commonalities and differences in the challenges they face running a small business. One common challenge clearly presented has been Covid. Covid has affected both cities' businesses financially, and socially. Another common challenge I saw in the Cairo store owners' interviews such as "Cairoma" and New York interviews was the agreement that the people living in the neighborhood leave trash on the floor in disregard of the people working and living in that area. Many store owners agreed the streets need to be renamed or cleaned up. One important commonality each city shares is the connection to their clientele. A majority of these businesses have great relations with their staff and clientele. One difference I noticed was Cairo's businesses have become used to certain standards or ways and it is harder for them to be open to change in their business because of this. "Greek bar" and "Estoril" transcripts talk about how there are certain standards expected from their clientele and would rather not draw attention to new customers and keep the same clientele. This reinforces their connection to their current clientele. New York business owners however, are more open to having a mixture of clientele as long as they are respectful to the workers.

I agree that one common challenge that all business owners face is the Covid. I feel like this pandemic impacts all businesses across the world. - Amjad

I agree with what you said about New York business owners having more mixture of clientele as long as they are respectful to the workers.

11. Linda Davis- Stores in NYC and Cairo have different responses when purchasing or selling different items. In one of the transcripts, a student from Cairo asked a store owner if they were allowed to sell items that were against their religion. They replied with "my religion I guess selling like beers for either a salad or even both. So you can't sell it in. Yeah. Bomb selling customers?" (NAC interview) In New York, bodega owners are allowed to sell most items including alcohol and drugs, religious or not. Yet, they are very strict with selling purchases because they wouldn't want to be troubled with the law. Also the NYC bodega owners would close on Muslim holidays, so their religion still interfered with their work in New York City.

## 12. Amjad Alsaïdi

Small businesses in New York City and Cairo have many similarities more than differences. Comparing Prospect Grocery by Zaid in NYC to Madbouly Bookstore in Cairo, I can see that both owners really care about their customers and do their best to provide customers' needs. However, the pandemic of COVID-19 had impacted both businesses in Cairo and NYC and declined their income, and the government didn't show any financial support for both businesses. Neighborhoods in Cairo and NYC are safe and surrounded by police, but in terms of parking both cities are struggling for parking space. Both businesses have to deal with people and I feel like the only difference is the products they sell. In Cairo, Madbouly Bookstore sells religious books, political books, and novel books. In NYC Prospect Ave sells different groceries and a smoke shop.

Due to COVID-19 the income decline is an issue and I imagine it to be pretty substantial due to the products being sold. ~Devin Mendoza

The space is very important because it shows a lot of ties with people who lived in New York because big cities are known to expand different businesses. -Linda Davis