**Case Study 1**

Last year, I was lucky enough to graduate in the top five of girls studying physics at my school in Denmark. We were invited to attend a conference for international students at a college in Geneva, affiliated to the CERN. There were more than two hundred delegates attending from all over Europe. During the lunch break, I sat near a young man, originally from Sierra Leone, and we talked about how much we enjoyed the morning session. When it was time to pay for our meals, the guy paid for my drink. I immediately insisted on paying him back, but he dismissed my suggestion. Although it was only a bottle of water, I didn’t feel he should have to pay for it. I felt uncomfortable, so at the coffee break I absolutely insisted on buying him a cappuccino as a way to pay him back for lunchtime. His face froze into a cold expression. I was embarrassed and asked him if I had offended him in some way. He replied that he paid for the water at lunch as a gesture of friendship. I told him that I wanted to pay him back out of politeness. He said he didn’t want any coffee and walked away.

*What are the main areas of misunderstanding in this scenario?*

*What could the female student do try and resolve the situation?*

*What could the male student do try and resolve the situation?*