

“Creating encounters with difference that make a difference”

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INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION ASSIGNMENT



SKILLS OF INTERCULTURAL VERBAL AND NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

When we think about verbal and nonverbal communication in a different culture, we often consider challenges associated with language. However, much of what it takes to negotiate a shared understanding between different languages and to be effective in a different cultural context means you can detect subtle differences in how people behave and the ways they interact.

The source of this assignment is Engineering Cultures East Asia – China Learning Activities, Spring 2013 by Dr. Brent K. Jesiek, bjesiek@purdue.edu

For this assignment, you need to find a busy public place where people interact and where you can observe people for a sustained period of time, such as 30 minutes or so. While observing people, take time to consider: How do they move about? What gestures do they use? How do they interact and relate to each other? In what manner do they pass by each other? Do they have direct or indirect contact? What are the expectations for space and privacy? Are there exceptions to this?

Take detailed notes and write, as a Word document or other file, a one paragraph summary responding to the prompts on the following page.

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“Strength lies in differences,
not in similarities”

Stephen R. Covey

PROMPTS







1. What did you observe that is different from your native culture? Describe the traits, practices, and behaviors you observed. Discuss the similarities/differences compared to your native culture. Reflect on how you react to these traits/practices/behaviors.
2. Identify and describe one specific goal relating to building intercultural verbal and nonverbal communication skills you'd like to achieve in the next month.

| Rubric | High (2) | Med (1) | Low (0) |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| What was observed? | clear description | somewhat clear description | less than clear description |
| Describe traits, practices, behaviors... | clear description | somewhat clear description | less than clear description |
| Discuss similarities or differences... | good comparing and contrasting | unclear comparing and contrasting | poor and unclear comparing and contrasting |
| How did you react? | clear and expressive | somewhat clear and expressive | poor clarity and weak expression |
| Goal identified and described | clear implication for future | somewhat clear implication for future | poor clarity and clear implication for future |

INTERCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND EFFECTIVENESS RUBRIC

Definition

A set of behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together to enable systems, agencies, or professionals to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.

| | | Proficient 3 | Emerging 2 | Developing 1 |
|---|---|--|---|-----------------|
| Knowledge <i>Cultural self-awareness</i>  | Article and... of ho... the... resp... shift... | | | |
| Knowledge <i>Knowledge of cultural worldview frameworks</i>  | Dem... of th... mem... its hi... style... | | | |
| Skills <i>Empathy</i>  | Inter... pers... worl... in a s... feeli... | | | |
| Skills <i>Verbal and nonverbal communication</i>  | Artic... cultu... com... unde... peop... com... direct/indirect and explicit/implied meanings) and is able to skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on those differences. | Emerging 2 Recognizes and participates in cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication and begins to negotiate a shared understanding based on those differences. | Developing 1 Identifies some cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication and is aware that misunderstandings can occur based on those differences but is still unable to negotiate a shared understanding. | |
| Attitudes <i>Curiosity</i>  | Asks complex questions about other cultures, seeks out and articulates answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives. | Asks deeper questions about other cultures and seeks out answers to these questions. | Asks simple or surface questions about other cultures. | |
| Attitudes <i>Openness</i>  | Initiates and develops interactions with culturally different others. Suspends judgment in valuing her/his interactions with culturally different others. | Begins to initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others. Begins to suspend judgment in valuing her/his interactions with culturally different others. | Expresses openness to most, if not all, interactions with culturally different others. Has difficulty suspending any judgment in her/his interactions with culturally different others, and is aware of own judgment and expresses a willingness to change. | |

• Adapted from AAC&U Core Value Rubrics