

The Purdue University Passport to Intercultural Learning (PUPIL)

Assignment to complete towards obtaining an Intercultural *Cultural Self-Awareness* badge

This assignment takes the form of a 4-part project and is designed to facilitate reflection upon your cultural self-awareness or the ways in which you identify your own cultural rules.

Many of these assignments have multiple parts or projects, designed to be completed in order. ***It is a good idea to read through all parts or projects of each assignment as one part or project may be dependent on another.***

Project Part One – The Narrative

Select an international student organization that interests you and write a narrative that addresses the following questions. If you would like guidance in selecting an organization or would like to learn more about a particular organization, you can contact [Trevor Foley](#), Diversity and Inclusion Administrator, or [Joe Potts](#), Associate Dean of International Programs.

Part One A:

1. How do you define culture?
2. In what ways do you perceive cultures to function? Or, in other words, what does culture do? How does culture influence what we think, or what we do, or how and who we choose to be?

Part One B:

3. Prior to attending your first international student organization meeting, write a narrative about the international organization you have chosen. Your narrative should focus on the following questions.
 - a. What interests you about this particular organization?
 - b. What cultural interests do you have related to this organization?
 - c. What cultural knowledge do you have about the culture[s] you imagine to be involved within this organization?
 - i. Where did this cultural knowledge come from?
 - ii. How did you gain access to this cultural knowledge?
 - iii. What do you expect to see, hear, feel and do when you attend the organization's meetings?

Project Part Two – Engaging with International Student Organizations

1. Attend the organization's meetings regularly for a semester and get involved in the organization's activities.
2. Keep a journal of your experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
 - a. After each meeting and activity, spend at least 10 minutes reflecting and writing about your experiences.

- i. Describe the activities in which you participated. What did you see that was new and interesting related to culture?
 - ii. Describe the way you felt and the things you were thinking as you participated in these activities.
 - iii. Describe the conversations that you were a part of and the ones you heard. What did you hear that was new and interesting related to culture?
 - iv. Describe the way you felt and the things you were thinking as you engaged in and/or heard various conversations.
- b. When it is appropriate, take pictures of the activities in which you participate.

Project Part Three – Analyzing Your Narratives

You should have several pages of journal entries that contain your narratives and reflections about your intercultural experiences within an international student organization. If possible, create a separate copy of your journal entries. If you typed your entries electronically, duplicate the files electronically so you can have a separate copy to highlight and markup. Read through all your journal entries as a collective; this is an opportunity to learn something about you and your peers within the organization. Read through your journal entries a second time, this time take notes of and/or highlight themes that emerge as you read through them again. In other words, if you notice that you write about particular impressions, feelings, thoughts, and sensations more than once, the recurrences may be a theme. Highlight the themes; consider highlighting different themes with different colors or otherwise denoting them with a symbol of some sort – like an asterisk, a dot, or a check mark. Re-read your journal entries as many times as you would like until you have identified all themes and are able to tell a story about your experiences, thoughts, and feelings as you participated in an international student organization.

Project Part Four – Reflecting on Your Experiences

Write a reflection of this overall experience that addresses the following questions.

1. What did you learn about yourself in terms of your own culture? What was it about your experiences within this organization that facilitated what you learned about yourself?
2. What did you learn about the culture[s] engaged within the international student organization? How does what you learned compare to what you already knew about the specific culture[s]?
3. What did you learn about how you view other cultures, particularly those engaged within the international student organization?
4. How did what you actually experienced, felt, and heard compare with what you expected to experience, feel, and hear prior to your first organization meeting and activity?