



## Intercultural Encounters Reflection

Reflect on your cultural competence by describing each new intercultural encounter. Use this form for each new encounter. Label the experience with a title, such as "Lost in Mexico City" and briefly summarize the experience by listing who was involved, where it took place, when, and the name of the overall experience as indicated on the Intercultural Experiences-Overview form. Reflect on how you felt during the experience, what you knew or would like to have known and how you acted or would act next time. You may go back and add more information as you continue the reflection process.

**SAMPLE:** *Lost in Mexico:*

*Who: 15 students and 2 teachers*

*When: Summer, 2009*

*What: Senior trip to Mexico*

*Related experience: Mexico, 2009*

**FEEL:** *I was so excited to go somewhere and actually use the Spanish I had been learning for four years. We went to visit some of the sites in Mexico City as a group, then do some shopping. I told everyone I'd meet them back at the tour bus as I needed to buy something to settle my stomach. I went the wrong way out of the shop and realized I was lost. My excitement turned to panic.*

*When I realized my mistake, I asked several people for directions back to the plaza. ("¿Sabes dónde está la plaza?"). I expected people to be friendly and point me back in the right direction. But instead, some ignored me and others mumbled incoherently. I had a feeling that I was going or saying something wrong, but I didn't know what.*

**KNOW:** *When I finally found the group and explained what had happened, my teacher told me that perhaps the people were less than friendly because I neglected to use a polite introduction to my request for information (Por favor, ¡Perdóneme!), and used the familiar form rather than the Ud. Form.*

*The next time we had down time, I eavesdropped on conversations between strangers to see if, in Mexico, they use the more formal forms. Many of the materials we learned from in class come from Spain, where it seems people use the familiar forms very readily. It's true! I even saw a family where the young wife was using the formal form with what I took to be her mother-in-law!*

*I was happy to have studied the layout of cities so that I knew that the main meeting up point is the plaza. That saved me as I ran panicked in the streets.*

**ACT:** *If I travel to another Spanish-speaking country, I'll try to determine ahead of time what degree of politeness is needed. If I can't, I'll listen in on people's conversations before opening my big mouth. Also, I'll practice more with friends so I get it right.*

*Although I was pretty panicked by the time I made it back to my group, I am looking forward to the next encounter I have so I can communicate more effectively.*



**Language Learner's Name:**

**Title for Intercultural Encounter:**

Who:
When:
What:



**How did you feel?**



<p>Describe your feelings during the experience. Did you feel comfortable or uncomfortable during the experience? Were you nervous or calm? Did you find the experience stressful or rewarding?</p> <p>Did those feelings change at any time during the experience? Why do you think you felt that way?</p> <p>Describe your reaction to this experience. What would you tell your friend about this experience?</p>
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## What did you already know and what would you like to know?

In this section, describe what you already knew that you think was helpful in making this experience a more comfortable one.

Write what you need to know in order to understand the experience better.



## How did you act and how would you act next time?

Reflect on your reactions to this experience. Did you act in an appropriate manner in this situation?

What steps can you take to learn more about the person's feelings, perceptions, and attitudes?

After having learned more about the person's culture, what could you do next time to make the experience more meaningful?

Describe a few things you could do to help your culture understand another culture more completely and describe how to improve reactions to a similar experience next time.

Describe a few things you could do to help someone to understand this cultural encounter better.