

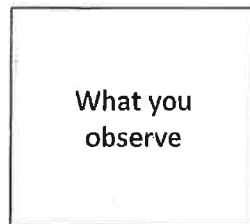
The Reflection Assignment

The goal of the reflection assignment is to help you make meaning of your experiences throughout the global seminar. Using the framework of "self-authorship," questions will prompt you to interpret what you are observing and experiencing, to analyze information, and to reflect upon your own beliefs in a different cultural context. The ability to do this in a different cultural context outside the U.S. will provide a unique opportunity to strengthen your critical thinking skills and to determine for yourself how you will use what you learn in this experience going forward.

The Frame

Your background
(Values, perceptions, beliefs, life experiences)

Influences:



Your values, perceptions, beliefs, identity, and where you were raised all influence how you observe and interpret different cultural contexts. Keep this in mind as you reflect upon your experiences in this reflection assignment.

Self Authorship - "the ability to collect, interpret, and analyze information and reflect upon one's own beliefs in order to form judgments"
(Baxter Magolda, 1998, p. 143)

Reflective Writing #1: Cultural Self-Awareness

The purpose of this first reflective writing is to introduce yourself as a human being (not a human-doing); to answer the question: Who Are You Culturally?

Directions: Using some or all of the topics below, write two double-spaced pages that give your instructors an idea of who you are as a human being.

- **SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR NAME:** What is your full name that you were given at birth? What is the meaning and ethnic origin of your name? Do you have a nickname? Is the name that you were given at birth different from the one you use now? Do you like your name?
- **SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE(S) of ORIGIN:** Where were you born? What do you consider your hometown? Home state? Home country? List all the places you have lived.
- **SIGNIFICANCE OF LANGUAGE:** What is your first language? What language did your parents or guardians speak to you when you were a child? What languages did you study in school or college? What languages did you hear while you were growing up: from childhood friends, neighbors, grandparents, teachers, others?

This Exercise is adapted from Dr. Brenda Ellingbow's "Human Being Exercise" 2009

- **SIGNIFICANCE OF VALUES, SHARED BELIEFS:** Think about your home environment, the people you lived with, and all the places you lived as a child and teenager and young adult. How did these people and places influence your cultural values, shared beliefs, norms, and customs? What are some of your deeply-held values? What do you stand for? What are some of your core beliefs?
- **SIGNIFICANCE OF ETHNICITY:** Where did your parents and grandparents come from? Which cultural traditions are integral to your life today? Do you identify with any of those cultural traditions, core values, and shared beliefs?
- **SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL CULTURE:** What is your nationality? Do you identify with that country's culture? What are some core values of that culture that you think are significant? Do you identify with another culture? Which one(s)? Why? What core values of that culture have you made your own?

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- **SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAVEL:** How have your travels and face-to-face interactions with people from other cultures broadened your worldview? What other places have you lived, worked, studied in, or traveled through that have influenced your cultural awareness and broadened your worldview?