

Activity: National identities

Addresses: Intercultural dimension.

Aims/Intended Learning Outcomes: To reflect on the concepts of *nationality, nation, origin, foreigner* and *patria*.

Activity 1. Description:

Activity 1:

Participants discuss in groups the meaning of the said concepts and the differences or similarities between them.

Activity 2:

Participants reflect on how the origin of their ascendants affects their national identity

Activity 3:

Participants analyse the Spanish Nationality Test by the Cervantes Institute.

They discuss the extent to which it measures the degree of integration of a foreign citizen.

Students develop awareness of how relative many of the concepts are and that it is often difficult to be clear cut about the definitions.

Time required: depending on the group size. Small teams are formed (3 to 4 students) to conduct the activity, each team is allowed to use around 5 to 10 minutes for their activity.

Group size: At least two teams are required - the minimum size would then be 4. No maximum size limit.

Context/setting: In the classroom.

Description:

1. At the start of the session students are asked to form groups of 3 to 4 people.
2. In each group participants reflect on the concepts of *nationality, nation, origin,*

foreigner and *patria*. They also discuss how they relate to these concepts.

3. This leads to the second activity where each team is given some of the questions from the Spanish Nationality Test by the Cervantes Institute. They are asked to complete it.

4. During the session each team presents their findings/answers to the rest of the teams and discussion of all their findings ensues.

4. The whole group will finally discuss their different findings. The findings are linked back to the sessions on social identities.

Variations:

Materials needed: Examples of the Spanish Nationality Test by the Cervantes Institute. Example of a family tree with ascendants of a variety of nationalities.

Behind the activity: The participants learn to question the labels and the language they use to describe themselves and others.

Inspired by: Prior work on immigration and communication and the difficulties immigrants face when they attempt to integrate into another society with social workers and legal professionals.

Any other comments: Interestingly, the multicultural group lead to a lively debate about the initial concepts. Participants had difficulties completing the Spanish Nationality Test by the Cervantes Institute successfully, despite the fact that the majority are Spanish citizens. The final activity helped to link this activity to social identities as the Dare trainer is often described as being "typically British" with the social labels attached to a University professor. However her family tree shows a long history of migrants of various nationalities and an "untypical" background which does not fit the labels the participants would have used to describe her.