

Activity: Cultural artifact

Addresses: Intercultural competence; communication

Aims/Intended Learning Outcomes: Students explore their own cultural self-awareness and, at the same time, get to know each other better

Time required: around 15 minutes

Group size: Any number of participants

Context/setting: In class.

Description:

1. Students are asked to work in pairs or in larger groups of 7-8 people (depending on the total number of participants).
2. Students must choose one object they have with them or they are wearing that tells something about their cultural background (they should take no more than 15 seconds to do this).
3. Students must explain why they have chosen that particular object and why it is important in representing their culture.

Variations:

Materials needed: nothing

Behind the activity: This activity helps people explore their cultural self-awareness. Facilitators can ask several questions to help with the debriefing (ie. How and why did you choose that object?; What did you observe as you were listening to others' cultural artifacts? Any surprises?, etc.)

Inspired by: This activity belongs to the book *Building Cultural Competence. Innovative Activities and Models*, edited by Kate Berardo and Darla K. Deardoff (2012). Sterling, Virginia: Stylus. 155-157.

Any other comments:

