

## ***Online Cultural Activity***

### **Objectives:**

- a. To give students, especially those from backgrounds of white privilege, insight into the experience of other cultures.
- b. To appreciate some of the issues in cross cultural communication
- c. Develop an understanding of at least one other culture norms, values, language, customs

### **Preparation- students:**

- d. Students self-select or are assigned a cultural group to research and present
- e. Students are instructed to research their cultural group, in preparation for an online course assignment. The assignment can be directed or nondirected. For example, you may want the students to "simply " introduce themselves in a group discussion and learn as much as they can about others in the group. You may want them to discuss a specific topic pertinent to the course, using the frame of reference of the culture as they understand it.

### **Assignment –online**

- a. Students re-enroll in the course, using a name they have selected based on their research. During the duration of this assignment, this is the login name they use.
- b. A forum is set up where the discussion takes place. All discussion is restricted to this area of the online course
- c. One the first day of the assignment, students introduce themselves with their new name, giving information about:
  1. Where they are from in their country of origin
  2. Their family or origin, who their mother and father are, and siblings
  3. Are other family members residents of the household?
  4. You could suggest they give career goals, life goals, anything that brings out where the student is in relation to their culture of origin. The student is encouraged to reflect on whether their own goals reflect the larger culture or have they chosen their own way?
  5. The students should also be engaging other students in a discussion of their culture and what they are presenting to the group.
- d. Ideas for discussion questions:
  1. Newspaper headings
  2. Birth control, child birth practices
  3. Access to health care
  4. Access to higher education

5. Professional roles
6. Gender issues
7. Issues related to aging
8. Death bed practices

Once the activity is over (I would suggest a week long discussion), then you can have a period of reflection on what it was like to be "from another culture".