MSEED Cultural Diversity Assignments

Your three assignments for your Cultural Diversity Experience are described below.

Assignment 1. Pre-Departure Paper

The purpose of this assignment is to develop a beginning understanding of culture, the dimensions of culture, and national tendencies of culture. If we explore culture through the lens of the 6-D Model by Geert Hofstede, we can get a good overview of the deep driving factors of culture relative to other cultures in our world. By supplying you with this information please realize that culture describes a central tendency in society. Everybody is unique, yet social control ensures that most people will not deviate too much from the norm. Moreover, within every country regional cultural differences exist, also in the United States. Americans, however, don’t need to go to a cultural briefing before moving to another state successfully. If your MSEED Cultural Diversity Experience takes place in the United States, read about the Dimensions of U.S. culture on the web site below.

Due: Email Assignment 1 to Jennifer Easthope (Jennifer.Easthope@valpo.edu) at least two weeks prior to your departure.

Study background information about the country/culture in which you will be immersed as follows:

1. Read about the Dimensions of National Culture identified through the work of Geert Hofstede (http://geert-hofstede.com/national-culture.html) and then study the scores on those dimensions for the country/culture you are visiting using the Country Comparison Tool (http://geert-hofstede.com/countries.html). If you are participating in a U.S.-based Cultural Diversity experience, read about the United States at the web site below,

2. Optional, if you are interested and don’t mind spending 5.90 Euros (approx. US $6.70): take the Culture Compass Survey (http://geert-hofstede.com/cultural-survey.html) and get a personalized report as a “student”.

3. Take the Culture-Learning Strategies Inventory (attached).

4. If you are participating in an international Cultural Diversity experience, read the article, International Perspectives on U.S. Americans (attached).

5. Locate and read at least one article that interests you on each of the following topics on the country/culture you are visiting:
   a. Culture (visible aspects of culture, values of the culture, stereotypes, how to interact respectfully and effectively in the culture, changes in the culture, culture shock, etc.)
   b. Current events

Write a 3-4 page paper that synthesizes what you have read/studied above. Be sure you address these questions

1. What have I come to know about the culture/country I will be visiting?
2. What questions do I have now about the culture/country I will be visiting?
3. What have I come to know about myself as a learner of culture?
4. What goals do I want to set for myself for learning about this country/culture and how will I plan to do that actively and specifically during my time there?

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**Assignment 2. Notes from the Trip**
Keep notes in a journal, log, or on an electronic device about

1. Interesting, unusual, expected/unexpected events, observations, and interactions (keeping in mind the Dimensions of National Culture, International Perspectives on U.S. Americans, and other information you read)
2. New questions or ideas you get being in the country/culture.

**Note:** Your journal or log will not be graded or collected but will be useful to you when you prepare Assignment 3.

**Assignment 3. Post-Trip Paper**
The purpose of this assignment is to synthesize your learning about culture from your readings and your experiences during your Cultural Diversity Experience and set goals for your future development and readiness to work effectively with students of different cultures and language backgrounds.

**Due:** Please email your Assignment 3 to Jennifer Easthope (Jennifer.Easthope@valpo.edu) within two weeks of the completion of your Cultural Diversity Experience.

Reread your Pre-Departure paper (Assignment 1) and review your Notes from the Trip (Assignment 2).

Write a 3-4 page paper that synthesizes your learnings from the trip beyond what you wrote in your Pre-Departure Paper. Be sure you address these questions:

1. What new or deeper learnings have I acquired about the culture/country I visited?
2. What new or deeper learnings have I acquired about myself as a learner of culture?
3. What goals do I want to set for myself for becoming more culturally competent for my future career as a teacher and how will I work on those goals?