

Role Play Presentation Assignment

For this assignment, you will conduct an approximately 7-10 minute presentation with a partner in which you will “role play”, analyze, and explain a **set of intercultural interactions** that may result in a realistic intercultural misunderstanding.

Step 1: With your partner, discuss settings where intercultural interactions take place. Consider the different cultural behaviors might take place when individuals interact in those contexts and how they might result in potential misunderstandings.

- Research these cultural behaviors. (Your research can be conducted through books, the internet, through observation, and through interview sources).
- Utilize at least 3 CREDIBLE sources (only one may be a cultural informant). You may not rely on only your own general knowledge.
- Analyze this situation utilizing concepts (AT LEAST THREE) from the text and from class discussion.

Helpful Hints: Your situation should focus on communication behaviors. Remember, that a misunderstanding can occur simply because there is a lack of knowledge about appropriate cultural norms OR because one attributes/attaches incorrect meaning to behavior they are unfamiliar with.

Here are some potential issues to consider using as a focus for your role plays:

- Differences in politeness or hospitality norms OR direct vs. indirect communication style OR any other communication style variations
- Differences in appropriate norms for making requests or making decisions, gift giving or inviting
- Differences in how friendships are perceived and behaviors associated with “being friends”
- Differences in how “time” is used or confusion as to how nonverbal behaviors are used.
- Differences in child-rearing/parenting responsibilities OR in with dealing with illnesses or health problems
- Differences in what is considered “taboo” or “superstitious” or “ritual” behavior.
- Differences due to misperceptions and stereotypes about another group
- Differences in expectations about different social roles should relate to one another (parent-child or colleagues-superiors, etc)

Consider a variety of contexts in which intercultural communication occurs—home, work office, hospital/medical office, airports, travel settings, customer service/retail, etc)

Step 2: Submit the “topic approval sheet” to your instructor on or before March 3, 2010.

I will only approve the major ideas for the role play. When you write your script and your analysis for presentation, I expect that the ideas might evolve and change a bit—this is okay—especially if it means that you are adding more depth and substance to your project.

Step 3: With your partner, write a script for your role play.

- Your role play should demonstrate to the audience the **key set of intercultural behaviors**. Make your role play realistic, interesting and rich in details (use props and any creative devices necessary).

Step 4: Practice your role play presentation, which will consist of the following:

- An overall clear introduction and conclusion.
- A concrete explanation of the topic/setting and why these behaviors occur and how they might result in a potential misunderstanding. Also describe/explain the cultural backgrounds of the interactants and why their particular cultural frameworks lead to such intercultural interactions.
- The role play.
- Advice and suggestions on how such an interaction can be better understood, changed, or resolved in a communicatively competent manner.

Step 5: With your partner, prepare ONE typed report (approximately 2-3 pages) which includes:

- Introduction of the topic/context and why you selected this as a topic (i.e. how important is it/how common, etc).
- A detailed, intercultural explanation of the cultural behaviors in this interaction, along with a discussion of key intercultural concepts relevant to your scenario,
- A reference page with the minimum 3-4 sources used to inform your project.

(NOTE: Each partnership TOGETHER will submit ONE report).

****Your assigned presentation date is: _____.**

YOU WILL SUBMIT YOUR REPORT, ALONG WITH YOUR ROLE PLAY SCRIPT ON THE DAY OF YOUR PRESENTATION.