

Group Discussion Assignment:

This assignment is intended to help increase your intercultural empathy.

Intercultural Knowledge and Effectiveness Rubric:

	Developing	Emerging	Proficient
Skills <i>Empathy</i>	Identifies components of other cultural perspectives but responds in all situations with own worldview.	Recognizes intellectual and emotional dimensions of more than one worldview and sometimes uses more than one worldview in interactions.	Interprets intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview and demonstrates ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.

This assignment has two parts: Core Qualities of a Successful Professional and Reflection Questions.

The goal of this assignment is to increase your ability to recognize—and even feel sympathy for—both the intellectual and the emotional aspects of a worldview other than that of your home culture. In a business context, “intercultural empathy” is the ability to understand what your client would want *even when they can’t really describe it to you*. In other words, client-focused empathy is why Steve Jobs was considered a “design god” throughout his career.

Part 1—Core Qualities of a Successful Professional:

1. Download the “Week 6_Core Qualities of a Successful Professional.pdf” and print three blank copies.
2. Identify the five qualities that you personally think are most important to success in a career in your chosen field. Then rank your five qualities from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important).
3. Ask two people working or studying in your field to complete a blank worksheet and participate in a group discussion. At least one of these participants must be from a culture other than your own. The more culturally diverse the group, the better. Avoid including someone from your own culture, and consider diversity in age and gender as well.
4. After each of you have completed a worksheet, spend at least 20 minutes trying to come to an honest consensus about the top three qualities that are important to the career success of someone working in your field. Ask non-judgmental questions and go out of your way to understand the viewpoint of the person or persons from another culture even if you ultimately cannot agree with them.
5. Take turns sharing what experiences helped you to decide on the field in which you are currently studying. (e.g., watching a historic event on TV, meeting a hero who works in this field, being inspired by (X), etc.) Additionally, you might talk about someone you know who works in the field and who has positive qualities that you admire.
6. Spend a few moments jotting down notes about your consensus attempts and then proceed to the reflection questions. Take pictures of all three original worksheets filled out by yourself and your group members, as well as your notes on the consensus discussion. Post these below as pictures in the discussion board, not as attachments.

Part 2—Reflection Questions:

1. Please respond to each set of questions with a short paragraph. Begin each with a description of your interviewee.
 - a. What core success qualities did you discuss with your cultural partner(s)? What aspect(s) of your cultural partner's explanations was/were the most meaningful for you? What aspect(s) of your cultural partner's explanations was/were hardest for you to grasp and why?
 - b. What emotions did you feel during your discussion with someone from another culture? What emotions did you observe in your partner? (See "Emotion_Wheel.jpg." You are not limited to only these.) Was your partner more emotionally expressive or less emotional than you when discussing things, and what do you think accounts for this?
 - c. Based on your discussion, what insights did you gain or what hypotheses might you make about the cultural world view of others from your partner's home country or culture?
 - d. What have you learned about the way you react to the sharing of other cultural perspectives, values, and emotions?
2. After your mentor has provided you with feedback, you must take an additional two turns in the discussion to complete this assignment and receive a grade.
3. Please remember to reflect on your current IDI stage and how to move along the continuum when posting your responses and follow up posts.
4. Be sure to respond to your mentor's question about your IDI stage.
5. Be sure to respond to your mentor's question about empathy.