**Peer Interview Report (Due October 3) 15 Points**

**Assignment Details and Assessment Rubric**

For this assignment, you will identify a willing interviewee who is a) a current international student at Purdue, b) not in the Peace Corps Prep Certificate Program, c) not someone you already know well, d) significantly culturally different from you in a number of ways (e.g., native language, cultural values and norms, religion, etc.), and e) not from a culture that you are very familiar with already. Consider choosing an international student from the part of the world you are most interested in serving in if you join the Peace Corps.

1. Make arrangements to meet with your interviewee in a quiet, semi-public space (so, not PMU Starbucks, but also not your bedroom – we recommend reserving a collaborative space in a library on campus). There is no minimum time limit for your interview, but we suggest planning for an hour. It would be very nice if you treated your interviewees to a beverage and/or snack to thank them for their time. We have suggested some guiding questions to help you get started, but feel free to deviate from these recommendations. You do not have to ask them all, and it would be best to engage in conversation with your interviewee by asking follow-up questions based on their initial responses rather than simply moving down the list below. Follow-up questions, for instance, could ask for more explanation, solicit an example or story, or ask your interviewee to compare/contrast. With your interviewee’s permission, you may make an audio recording of your interview for reference later. This is often less distracting to both of you than trying to take extensive notes in the moment. You do NOT need to turn in any recordings, transcripts, or notes for this assignment.
2. Some recommended questions:
   1. Which social groups do you feel connected to because of shared values, beliefs, perceptions, and behavioral norms? How do you label yourself, culturally speaking?
   2. How do other people read or recognize your body as a “cultural being?” What labels do other people put on you, perhaps even before they meet you?
   3. Is there a gap between how you see yourself and how others see you?
   4. What deliberate attempts do you make to “belong” to a particular cultural group? When do you find yourself trying to call attention to your cultural identifications by saying, doing, wearing, etc. certain things?
   5. How has being a member of your cultural groups shaped you as a person? Which of your beliefs, values, and behaviors do you share with other members of your cultural groups?
   6. What aspects of your cultural identifications (e.g. values, expectations) conflict with each other and cause you dilemmas? In what situations do you find yourself torn between reacting in different ways because you belong to more than one cultural group?
   7. How do your cultural identifications change in the context of your interactions/relationships with different people? Do you think/feel/act differently when you are around various people in your life or in various places/spaces?
   8. How have your cultural identifications changed over time and/or space? What caused those changes?
3. After your interview, reflect on what you have learned about that person as a cultural being and write your paper. We suggest that you start with an outline to keep yourself organized. Your paper should NOT be a play by play of your interview, or a list of responses to various questions you asked. Instead, we would like you to pick out several interesting and insightful points that you took away from the interview. Some suggestions on what you could (but don’t have to) write about:
   1. what you learned about the nature of cultural identifications, providing examples from the interview
   2. what you learned about the insider perspective of unfamiliar cultural groups (think, below the water line in the iceberg)
   3. things that are similar and/or different between you and your interviewee
   4. anything your interviewee said that resonated with you deeply, surprised you, or made you think more deeply about your own cultural identifications
   5. any questions that you now have about your interviewee, the groups to which s/he belongs, or how culture functions in individuals’ lives.

1. There is no need for you to do any additional research for this paper, but you can and should reference any course readings that you find relevant. Your paper should be two pages in length not including cover page or references. Please format your papers, including any citations, according to APA conventions: typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in Times New Roman 12 point font.

The rubric below will be used to evaluate your interview reflection paper:

|  | **PERFORMANCE** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CRITERIA** | **Needs Improvement** | **Meets Expectations** | **Exceptional** |
| **Content (10 points)** | **(0-3)** Paper is under-developed in terms of topics covered, critical thinking exhibited in discussion, and/or examples provided. AND/OR Paper is presented as a recap of the interview instead of a thematic reflection. | **(4-7)** Paper discusses several relevant topics but may not exhibit exceptional critical thinking or offer detailed examples from interview for all points. | **(8-10)** Paper discusses several relevant topics in a thoughtful and thorough yet concise manner, providing examples from interview to illustrate points. |
| **Style (5 points)** | * 1. Style of paper distracts reader from the content of the paper because many/major grammatical errors are present. Paper is not formatted APA style, or many/major formatting errors are present. | (2-3) Style of paper does not distract reader from the content of the paper, although a few minor grammatical errors may be present. Paper is formatted in APA style, but one or two minor formatting errors may be present. | (4-5) Paper is eloquently written and free of grammatical errors. Paper is formatted in APA style, with no formatting errors in the paper or references. |