**Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Interview Report 10/24 15 Points**

**Assignment Details and Assessment Rubric**

1. For this assignment, you will need to identify a willing interviewee who is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. Let your instructor know if you have trouble locating someone to interview, as we can help you locate potential interviewees from among local RPCVs.
2. Make arrangements to meet with your interviewee in a quiet, semi-public space (so, not PMU Starbucks, but maybe Pappy’s - not your apartment. We recommend reserving a collaborative space in a WALC 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 don’t 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.

Some recommended questions:

1. Before you joined the Peace Corps, what kind of intercultural experiences had you had? How prepared were you for adapting to a new culture? For being far from family and friends? For living in the developing world?
2. What was your daily life like living and working in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? How was it different from your previous life in the US? What were the biggest challenges you faced in terms of cultural adaptation?
3. What skills or intercultural competencies did you gain from the experience? How do you think you contributed to others’ intercultural attitudes or knowledge?
4. What cultural/intercultural advice do you have for people joining the Peace Corps?

3. After your interview, reflect on what you have learned about the role of culture and intercultural competence in the Peace Corps experience. 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 adaptation, providing examples from the interview
  2. what you learned about the development of intercultural competence and its importance for successful service in the Peace Corps
  3. anything your interviewee said that resonated with you deeply, surprised you, or made you think more deeply about your own preparedness to join the Peace Corps
  4. any questions that you now have about your interviewee, the Peace Corps experience, or the

4. 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 2-3 pages in length not including any or references. Please format your paper, 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. |