

## Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to reflect on why they chose to study abroad. They will write an autobiography on the cultural reasons that lead to their study abroad program.

## Background and Information:

This activity was created by CILMAR staff at Purdue University. The Target Skills rubric used for this activity was adapted from the AAC&U Creative Thinking and Problem Solving VALUE Rubrics (see citations below).

## Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Introduce themselves to other classmates/group members.
2. Consider cultural factors that led to their study abroad experience.

## Time:

20 minutes

## Group Size:

Entire group

## Materials:

Paper and pen/pencil or a computer.

## Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

## AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

## Other Skills:

Friendship, Teamwork, Mentorship, Diversity & Inclusion, and Leadership

## Activity instructions:

This assignment is intended to help you reflect on why you chose to study abroad.

## Target Skills Rubric:

	Developing	Emerging	Proficient
<b>Creative Thinking</b> <i>Solving Problems</i>	Considers and rejects less acceptable approaches to solving problem.	Having selected from alternatives, develops a logical and consistent plan to solve the problem.	Not only develops a logical, consistent plan to solve problem, but recognizes consequences of the solution and can articulate reasons for choosing a solution.
<b>Problem Solving</b> <i>Identify Strategies</i>	Identifies only a single approach for solving the problem that applies within a specific context.	Identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem, only some of which apply within a specific context.	Identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem that apply within a specific context.

Write an autobiography that briefly introduces who you are to your mentor and group members. Discuss a minimum of two cultural factors (external) that brought you to study abroad this semester. It may help you to think about your life as a series of decisions or judgments that you have made. There are cultural images or factors that are a part of us that have influenced these decisions such as parents, friends, relatives, teachers, television, movies, books, etc. How have these images and forces shaped your decision to study abroad? Your autobiography should be a minimum of 250 words.

## Related Tools:

*Similar tools:*

- [25 Questions](#)
- [Conversation Starters: 200 questions to get to know someone](#)
- [Cultural Artifact \(Show and Tell\)](#)
- [Cultural Autobiography](#)
- [Five Nosy Questions](#)
- [Name Story, aka The Name Game](#)
- [Voices from the Past \(Name Tags\)](#)

Related assessment tools:

- [Creativity Rubric \(AAC&U\)](#)