

Private Discussion Assignment:

This assignment is intended to help manage your strategic planning

Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric:

	Developing	Emerging	Proficient
<i>Influence of context and assumptions</i>	Shows an emerging awareness of assumptions and relevant contexts. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa), and unaware of some contextual factors.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.
<i>Conclusions</i>	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.	Conclusion is logically tied to some information, including opposing viewpoints; some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.

In fitness training, your best intentions may become derailed by a lingering illness or a twisted ankle. In business, a great business plan may become shipwrecked on the hidden reefs of a faltering economy—or it may fail to attain its best and highest purpose because it couldn't pivot quickly enough toward an unexpected opportunity. Similarly, in study abroad, the learner's ambitious plans to become fluent in four months or to bond closely with their foreign classmates frequently shifts in the face of unexpected difficulties or possibilities. Our lesson this week, which consists of four parts, focuses on using the tools of career success to update your SMART Goals for study abroad using the SWOT analysis

The SWOT analysis is a structured planning tool that is often used for business start-ups, long-term projects, and career planning. You will use personal SWOT analysis to help you determine which of your study abroad SMART Goals are still a priority (relevant), whether any of them are no longer realistic (not achievable or not timely), and what new learning opportunities might be available (making your goals more relevant and timely).

Part 1:

Find and read your original SMART Goals from Week 01, the feedback from your mentor, and the discussion that followed.

Part 2:

Read the article about personal SWOT analysis, available on the [Mind Tools blog](#). Be sure to also look at "07_Personal-SWOT-Analysis-Infographic.pdf." With your study abroad learning context and personal career goals firmly in mind, complete "07_SWOTAnalysisWorksheet.pdf." Embed an image of your SWOT worksheet into the discussion board.

There are a couple ways to do this. You can print out the worksheet and then snap a photo of it with your cellphone, or you can use the Snipping Tool (available on all MS Windows devices) to open a box over the image of the worksheet and save that as a JPEG. On Macs, press COMMAND+SHIFT+4 simultaneously to snip a specific area of the screen to the desktop. When the cursor changes to a cross +, drag a box around the section you want to copy and release the mouse. Again, save as a JPEG. In the Blackboard discussion board, select insert image from the tool bar (NOT insert attachment).

Part 3:

Review and revise your SMART Goals for maximum learning and long-term career benefit, being aware of both your strengths and weaknesses, as well as local opportunities and threats (barriers). Copy your original SMART goals, label it as "original," and paste it along with your revised SMART goals (for comparison).

Part 4

1. Write a short reflection on (at least) ONE personal weakness and ONE personal strength that you have taken account of in the revised plan.
2. You must complete two additional turns with your mentor after their initial feedback in order to complete this assignment and receive a grade.
3. Be sure to respond to your mentor's question about your IDI stage.
4. Be sure to respond to your mentor's question about critical thinking.