



Introduction:

This assignment is intended to help you make connections to your discipline.

Integrative Learning VALUE Rubric:

	Benchmark	Milestones	Capstone
Connections to Discipline <i>Sees (makes) connections across disciplines, perspectives</i>	When prompted, presents examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.	When prompted, connects examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective. Independently connects examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective	Independently creates wholes out of multiple parts (synthesizes) or draws conclusions by combining examples, facts, or theories from more than one field of study or perspective.

(AAC&U, 2009)

There are three parts to the assignment: Professional Biographies, Interview, and Short Essay. The goal is to increase your knowledge about careers in your chosen field, how people around the world prepare for and practice their profession, and what (if any) intercultural skills have proven helpful in these careers. You will conduct an informal interview (face-to-face and ideally over coffee or an inexpensive meal) with a professional, grad student or professor/teacher working in your chosen field in your host country.

Participant Instructions:

1. Read the Wikipedia biographies of at least two U.S. citizens who are professionals in your field (below are some examples or you can look up your own favorites) to try to get a better sense of the typical career path. What you are looking for is:
 - Who influenced them?
 - What educational and career opportunities did they follow?
 - What (if any) barriers to success did they face?
 - Any mention of overseas experience or influences of another culture?

Example biographies:

- [Neil Armstrong](#)
- [Lonnie Johnson](#)
- [Beatrice Hicks](#)
- [Jose M. Hernandez](#)

Compare at least one biography of a professional who was not born in the U.S. Some examples are provided below with links. If you're having trouble finding someone in your field, try Googling the country you're in with the name of a profession. Make a note of any

difference(s) between these life experiences and the education and career paths of the individuals you read about from above. Post your comparison.

Example biographies:

- [Muhammed H. Qureshi](#) (Pakistan)
 - [André Citroën](#) (France)
 - [Shigeo Shingo](#) (Japan)
 - [Morris Chang](#) (China)
 - [Irene Muloni](#) (Uganda)
 - [Juan B. Gutierrez](#) (Colombia)
2. Invite a professional (or professor, grad student, etc.) from a country/culture different from your own who works in your field and is located in your current host city to discuss their education and career path.

Plan for your interview to last between 30-60 minutes. The longer the interview, the better – take your time and get to know them. You may ask additional questions, but you must at least ask the specific interview questions listed later in this section.

Interview Procedure: We recommend that you ask the interviewee for permission to audio record the interview on your phone or computer so that you can maintain proper eye-contact and show appropriate interest in what they have to say. If this idea makes them uncomfortable or you are unable to record, it is better to jot short notes on paper either during or afterward. The responses to the final two questions are the most important for this particular assignment.

We do not advise that you transcribe responses onto a laptop as they occur, since this puts a physical barrier between you and your source. Good interviewers focus as much as possible on their informant in order to keep conversation flowing naturally.

Interview Questions:

- Who or what influenced you to pursue this career?
 - What barriers did you face or what assistance did you receive?
 - How is the educational system structured in [host country]? What characterizes career path, planning, and networking in [host country]??
 - How much of your work involves interacting with people from another culture or country?
 - What, in your opinion, are the three non-technical skills which have been most important to your professional success?
 - What intercultural skills are important for working in a multicultural setting?
3. Post a short essay of four paragraphs for individual feedback that addresses the four points below. You only need to post your essay, not your notes! You must take an additional two turns in response to the feedback you receive to obtain a grade for this assignment. But first, above the paragraphs, please give a brief, anonymous “identity sketch” of your interviewee by listing in bullet point format the following items:



- Gender
- Nationality
- Location(s) of interviewee's education
- Discipline/field/profession

How to begin the four paragraphs:

- **First paragraph:** As I listened to my interviewee, I noticed the following similarities [please list them] between the careers in the U.S. compared to careers in this country, which was [interesting/not surprising] because....
- **Second paragraph:** After speaking with my interviewee about education and career in [host country], the most significant differences between the education and careers of professionals in my home context versus my host context in this field are [list and describe these].
- **Third paragraph:** Based on what I have heard from my interviewee, if I were to attempt a career outside the U.S. in this field, my biggest non-linguistic hurdle would be...
- **Fourth paragraph:** My interviewee cited several non-technical and intercultural skills [please list them] as being important in today's workplace and thinking ahead to my future career, I would [agree/disagree] that all of these are important because...