

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to reflect on their intercultural experiences using blogging. They will maintain a blog throughout an entire course or study abroad program.

Background and Information:

Blog Abroad is created by Anthony Ogden, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming, and Mandy Reinig, Director of International Education at St. Mary's College. It is uploaded to the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit (see citation below).

Objectives:

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

1. "Experience writing not just as a tool for displaying knowledge but also as a means for acquiring knowledge."
2. "Use blogging to critically reflect on experiences and as a tool for self-discovery."
3. "Learn about global issues, develop multiple perspectives on global affairs, and begin seeing [themselves] as global citizens" (Ogden & Reinig, 2009).

Time:

1 hour

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Copies of the Blog Abroad handout (in both [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)).

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).

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks:

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Blog Abroad instructions on the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [International Maymester Reflection Journal](#)
- [International Study Abroad Internship Reflection Handout](#)
- [Journaling Across Cultures](#)
- [Lost in Translation](#)
- [My Experience in Pictures](#)

Related assessment tools:

- [Critical Reflection Rubric](#)