

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to keep track of their progress as they learn a new language. They will keep a journal where they reflect on linguistic, sociolinguistic, and sociocultural issues as they are learning.

Background and Information:

Lost in Translation is created by Anthony Ogden, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming, and 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. "Keep a record of [their] language learning while abroad."
2. "Take ownership of [their] language learning, so as to increase [their] motivation and likelihood of continuing with the language upon return."
3. "Reflect on the linguistic, sociolinguistic, and sociocultural aspects of language learning in context" (Ogden, 2009).

Time:

3 hours

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Copies of the Lost in Translation Handout (in both [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)), pens/pencils, notebooks for journaling.

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).

Verbal and Nonverbal Communication:

- To articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication (e.g., demonstrates understanding of the degree to which people use physical contact while communicating in different cultures or use direct/indirect and explicit/implicit meanings).
- To skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on these differences.

Other Skills:

Friendship

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Lost in Translation instructions on the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Blog Abroad](#)
- [Foreign Language Can-Do Statements](#)
- [International Maymester Reflection Journal](#)
- [Journaling Across Cultures](#)
- [My Experience in Pictures](#)

Related assessment tools:

- [Language Learning Strategies Inventory](#)