

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to learn and practice ethnographic interviewing skills. In small groups, they will practice interviewing each other using ethnographic techniques and then set up an interview with someone from their host country.

Background and Information:

The Ethnographic Interview is adapted by Anthony Ogden, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming, and Stephanie Roulon, Instructor of French at Portland State University, from Julia G. Crane and Michael V. Angrosino's *Field Projects in Anthropology: A Student Handbook*. 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. "Become familiar with the fundamental principles of ethnographic inquiry and to identify basic elements in the ethnographic interview."
2. "Practice skills related to developing rapport with an informant and selecting appropriate questions."
3. "Reflect upon the role of ethnographic writing in the cultural learning process" (Ogden & Roulon, 2009).

Time:

3 hours

Group Size:

Small group

Materials:

Copies of The Ethnographic Interview Handout (in both [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

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.

Other Skills:

Friendship

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [The Ethnographic Interview instructions on the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit](#)

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- [Body Ritual Among the Nacirema](#)
 - Facilitators can use this activity to help introduce the concept of ethnography to participants.
- [Different Perspectives: Bias and Assumptions During Interviews](#)
 - This activity will help participants interrogate the role of interviewee and interviewer and help them to avoid bias and assumptions as they conduct their own interviews.
- [Worldview Questionnaire](#)
 - This activity may help participants prepare questions for their interviews.

Similar tools:

- [Grocery Store Ethnography](#)
- [Martian Anthropology](#)
- [Martians at the Airport](#)
- [YouTube Ethnography Project](#)

Related assessment tools:

- [Critical Reflection Rubric](#)
- [Curiosity and Exploration Inventory \(CEI-II\)](#)
- [Rubrica Valutativa della Competenza Interculturale](#)