

## **Introduction:**

In this activity, participants will practice their observation, analysis, and reflection skills by taking a walk through their neighborhood, identifying what they see, and connecting their observations to various issues related to the local culture.

## **Facilitator Notes:**

This activity can be easily adapted to a study abroad location or for a virtual course. The focus of the walk can also be tailored for your disciplinary needs. For example, the tool author focuses on the localization of engineering solutions. The facilitator can focus on topics from any domain (advertisement design, power/group dynamics on the street, accommodation & accessibility, space design, etc.). The activity can also be done by one participant or in pairs that involve a local individual or a peer.

## **Objectives:**

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

1. Practice observation, analysis, and reflection skills.
2. Develop curiosity.
3. Increase knowledge of worldview frameworks.

## **Time:**

2 hours.

## **Group Size:**

Entire Group.

## **Materials:**

Note-taking method while walking through the neighborhood (writing utensil/paper or smartphone).

## **Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:**

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

## **AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:**

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.

## Curiosity

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

## Activity Instructions:

1. Each participant should spend half an hour on their own walking a street (of their own choice) in their neighborhood and follow the cues below:
  - Engage all five senses to notice one or more items (things, people, animals, smell, sound, etc.) that you haven't noticed before about the street. Take pictures or notes along the way.
  - Identify something on the street that reflects the local culture or that responds specifically to the local community's need. *Note:* This portion should be adapted to address topics within the course's focus.
  - Identify one sign/item on the street that demonstrates how the street/neighborhood is connected to the outside world or to the global society.
  - Interview one local member on the street about their most memorable moments or places on this street, and why that moment or place is the most memorable one.
  - Research the history of the street.
2. Then, participants should write a reflection report or create a two-minute reflective video about their individual neighborhood walk, summarizing their findings on the abovementioned five cues, what they have learned about their own neighborhood, and what follow-up questions they have after the walk. This should take approximately one hour.
3. Lastly, in a group debriefing session, participants will share their findings with each other. Debriefing can use the "[What? So what? Now what? Model](#)" or the [Thiagi Debrief Model](#). This should take approximately 30 minutes.