

**Introduction:**

Real-time word cloud builders can be used to generate discussion surrounding intercultural learning concepts. This document provides general guidance for how facilitators can use word clouds to get participants talking about intercultural learning concepts in both face-to-face and virtual environments. These word clouds will demonstrate themes/patterns in the participants thinking about the concept, as well as the concept's complexity.

**Objectives:**

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

1. Identify themes/patterns in their thinking and knowledge about intercultural learning concepts.
2. Demonstrate the complexity surrounding intercultural learning concepts.

**Time:**

30 minutes.

**Group Size:**

Entire Group.

**Materials:**

Access to the Internet; Computers/smartphones for all participants; A real-time word cloud builder (see step 1 in Activity Instructions).

**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).

**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. The facilitator will first need to choose and set up an account with their preferred live word cloud builder application. Below are several options:
  - [Mentimeter](#): Includes a free live word cloud generator. The facilitator will simply need to sign up for an account and then set up a link and code for participants to access the word cloud.
  - [Poll Everywhere](#): For this app, facilitators will also need to create an account and then they can create a link for users to join in creating the word cloud. They can also incorporate the word cloud into PowerPoint, Google Slides, or Slack. Note that the free version only allows for a maximum of 25 participants.
2. Once the facilitator has set up the word cloud link, they should send the link to participants and instruct them to start typing in words that they associate with the concept that is central to the discussion. The facilitator should set up a time limit for typing (approximately 3-5 minutes).
3. Once the word cloud is finished generating, the facilitator should debrief with the following questions:
  - What themes and patterns do you notice across the words that have been generated?
  - Which words on here surprised you? Why?
  - Which words are the largest? Why do you think those words were the most common?
  - Which words are smaller? Why do you think those words were less common, but still a part of the picture?
  - What does this word cloud tell us about the complexity of this concept?