Overview:
This lesson challenges participants to think more deeply about how culture contributes to everyday norms/behaviors and habits. With a partner, they will choose several cards from two sets: cultural contexts and behaviors/norms. Then, they will talk through their life experiences and attempt to “connect the dots” between how their cultural contexts have affected their behaviors/norms in particular scenarios. Finally, they will complete a debriefing reflection on what they learned about themselves and their partner.

Objectives:
As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:
1. Identify cultural contexts that are important to them.
2. Explore how their cultural contexts have shaped their behaviors/norms.
3. Compare and contrast their positionality and experiences with others.

Time:
1 hour

Group Size:
Pairs

Materials:
Access to Zoom or other similar video conference platform, the Connect Your Cultural Dots Participant Instructions, and the Connect Your Cultural Dots Cards (both in 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.

Empathy
• To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
• To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.
Other Skills:
Friendship

Activity Instructions:

1. First, assign partners for this activity. Partners will meet on their own time outside of class meetings over Zoom or another similar video conferencing platform.

   Note: To pair up participants, use an activity such as Intercultural People Bingo, Similarities and Differences, and Six Differences.

2. When the partners meet, they will each pick one card from the two cards sets in the Connect Your Cultural Dots Cards document: one cultural context card and one behaviors/norms card. Then, they should each take turns talking through how they believe that cultural context has influenced their chosen behavior/norm. They might use the following questions as guides:
   - Why did you choose this particular cultural context?
   - How would you describe your experiences within this cultural context?
   - Why did you choose this particular behavior/norm?
   - How would you describe your experiences related to this behavior/norm?
   - What is the relationship between your cultural context and this behavior/norm? How might you connect the dots between them?

3. Then, they should compare and contrast their experiences:
   - What are some of the similarities between your experiences?
   - What are some of the differences?
   - How does culture play into these similarities and differences?

4. Once finished, they should complete a debriefing reflection (either written or audio/video) that addresses the following questions:
   - What did you learn about yourself as you were talking through your life experiences?
   - What did you learn about your partner?
   - What did you learn about the relationship between culture and behaviors/norms?

Related Tools:

Similar tools:
- Iceberg
- Universal Cultural or Personal Card Game

Tools to use in conjunction with this activity:
- Intercultural People Bingo
- Similarities and Differences
- Six Differences