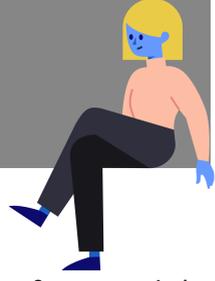


INTERCULTURAL PRAXIS SCENARIO



Disclaimer

This is intended to be a simplified illustration of potential culturally-based responses to a **hot-button issue**. These characters are fictional and based largely on easy-to-understand generalizations and stereotypes. These are not meant to represent real people, nor suggest that such people always respond in the ways presented below. They are presented this way to allow for simple connections to be made between culturally informed values and behaviors. In essence, this is a watering down of real life to make the content easier to access and apply to the IC Praxis Model for illustrative purposes.

Narrative

At a predominantly white land grant university in the Midwest, students from a range of departments and majors attended an event on *environmental justice* as a course requirement.

The day after, students in a General Education Science course meet in their assigned discussion group. The instructor asks them to share their impressions of the event and any questions they may have.



Jason
white student;
rural farming
community



Imani
international
student; Kenya



Amanda
white student;
Chicago



Seema
international
student; India



Steven
white
student;
Indianapolis



Roger
black
student;
Atlanta



Jessica
Hispanic
student;
Indianapolis



Sean
black student;
Flint, Michigan

• • • • • awkward silence/long pause



I thought it was interesting, I guess. But nobody there talked about the farmers' perspective. It was all about how we need to protect the environment and address climate change or we're doomed. What about the farmer who's just trying to make a living? And what about all the people who depend on the food those farmers produce?



Even before the pandemic, over a million people in my country were on the brink of starvation due to climate change. I mean, it's real... climate change.



Oh, come on, Steven, really? How can you not believe in climate change? Weren't you listening yesterday when they said something like 97 or 98% of all scientists acknowledge climate change is a major problem? Plus, feminists have been pointing out for decades the connection between destruction of the environment and male-dominated societies.



Well, it makes sense to me it was all about the U.S. You're in the U.S.



Flint is definitely an example of environmental racism like what's happening with the pipeline in northern Minnesota. My family loves the boundary waters in Minnesota. We go there every summer for vacation. This summer, I'm thinking about the protest with the water protectors led by Indigenous women who are trying to stop the pipeline.



Yeah, right, and is climate change even real? I mean it's normal to have changes in the weather. Hot and cold cycles have happened throughout history, right? And scientists don't even agree on whether or not humans are causing shifts.



Climate change may be real, sure. But it's hard for me to care much about it when we're dying over here every day at the hands of the police.



Did anybody else notice how everything at the event was focused on the U.S.? Environmental justice is a global issue. It's the same with the global pandemic. Until everyone has access to vaccines, none of us is safe. But it seems sometimes like all people care about here is local impact."



You all know about the water problem in Flint. Well, you know about it now, but we were being poisoned for a long time before anyone paid any attention. And why? Just because they wanted to cut corners, save money, and figured we didn't matter.



Like Jason said, though, how are the farmers going to make a living? How do we get enough fossil fuels to live a normal life? We can't protect every piece of land, every water supply, every community in the whole world... something has to give. Some places get hit worse than others. That's just the way it is.

Uncomfortable with the growing divisiveness, the instructor changes the topic to the assignment due at the end of the week.