



Your role is to observe – watch, listen, etc. You are encouraged to jot down notes since you will be asked to share your observations.

Your observations may be descriptive, but it is likely that you will also offer some interpretations. Try to avoid evaluations – judgments – about what you observe.

It can be tricky to distinguish between description, interpretation, and evaluation. The definitions below may help.

- **Description:** An objective account or list of details, characteristics, or qualities like color, number, size, word-for-word what is said, a step-by-step account of movement or actions, etc. For example, you might say that you hear two people speaking quickly and loudly to each other.
- **Interpretation:** An explanation of what the descriptive details represent. It explains your understanding of what is being observed. For example, if you hear two people speaking quickly and loudly to each other and say they are arguing or angry, that is an interpretation. It's possible that they are acting out a script, joking, or conversing in a way that is culturally normal for them.
- **Evaluation:** A judgement that applies a good or bad, positive or negative value to something. For example, if you hear two people speaking quickly and loudly to each other and say that they are being inappropriate (negative) or that they know how to have fun (positive), that is an evaluation.

Of course, ultimately, even a description can't be objective since it depends on what the describer focuses on, the context and angle from which they observe, etc. But is useful to try to distinguish these actions to avoid jumping straight to evaluation.

Bottom line for your role in this simulation: Don't worry if you end up sharing evaluations. As an observer outside the interaction, you will offer a unique and valuable perspective. And if you have speculations (interpretations) about the kinds of cultural differences you observe, you are invited to bring those up.