Promoting Mindful, Reflective Perspective Taking

A World Café Session

Mascha Gemein, University of Arizona
Aisha Haque, Western University
Nanda Dimitrov, Western University
What does perspective taking mean to you?

- What are some potentials you see with it in higher education?

- What are some potential pitfalls of engaging students in learning activities that involve perspective taking?
Perspective Taking in Higher Education

• Over 90% of students and higher education professionals identify perspective taking as an essential goal of the college experience (AACU).

• Reconciliation in Canada and Inclusive Excellence in U.S. higher education call for more attention toward a more explicit focus on learning activities that may be applicable across disciplines.

• Introspection, awareness for one’s own positionality and awareness of the positionalities of others are foundational elements in developing intercultural competence. (Merryfield and Subedi, 2006; Deardorff, 2006)
Examples of Learning Activities that Promote Perspective Taking

• Visibility Exercise
• Creative Re-Writes
• The Avatar/Ally Exercise
• Contemplative Practices
• Theatre of the Oppressed
• Simulations and role plays
• Empathy Lab (Mobile Simulation Aging Lab)
• Storytelling/Story Writing
• Human Library (http://humanlibrary.org)

World Café Method

http://www.theworldcafe.com

Illustration by Avril Orloff
World Café Etiquette

• Share ideas, doodle, ask questions
• Move to a new table in each round
• Table hosts stay and summarize the conversation
• We will share ideas via google docs after the session
Round 1

How do you promote perspective-taking in ways that encourage students to first reflect on their own positionalities?
Round 2

How can instructors negotiate a balance in monitoring students during perspective-taking activities?
How can instructors help students negotiate their affective responses to intercultural learning experiences?
Takeways and highlights

• What will you take back to your own practice from today’s conversation?
Sharing activities online?

We will add our examples to google docs using the template

Share your own examples with the group at:

References


