**Online Orientation Worksheet**

***Complete this worksheet as you read the Culture Orientation for Students Currently Abroad. Once you have completed the Orientation Worksheet and submitted it to Rachel Thiel at*** [***rthiel@nd.edu***](mailto:rthiel@nd.edu)***, you will receive a confirmation email and an Answer Key.***

**STEP ONE: FILM**

**Please take the time now to watch the following video put together by Notre Dame alums and faculty. After you finish the video, complete Exercise One on the Orientation Worksheet.**

**STEP TWO: CULTURE TRAINING**

**Read the following excerpts from The University of Pacific’s “On-Line Cultural Training Resource” and “Tales from the Peace Corps.” Then complete the exercises on the Orientation Worksheet.**

**STEP THREE: QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Complete the Region Specific Orientation Questionnaire and submit it with your Orientation Worksheet. The Questionnaire can be found under the Forms and Information tab of your program’s webpage.**

**STEP ONE: FILM**

**Exercise 1: Please provide a 1-2 paragraph response of your reactions to this film.**

**STEP TWO: CULTURE TRAINING**

**Exercise 2: Behaviors: Universal, Cultural, or Personal?**

Through the following exercise, you will explore categories of behavior:

This exercise contains a list of behaviors. After each sentence, put a "U" if you think the behavior is universal, "C" if it is cultural, or "P" if it is personal.

a. Sleeping with a bedroom window open

b. Running from a dangerous animal

c. Considering snakes to be "evil"

d. Men opening doors for women

e. Respecting older people

f. Liking spicy food

g. Preferring playing soccer to reading a book

h. Eating regularly

i. Eating with knife, fork, and spoon

j. Being wary of strangers

k. Calling a waiter with a hissing sound

l. Regretting being the cause of an accident

m. Feeling sad at the death of your mother

n. Wearing white mourning robes for 30 days after the death of your mother

o. Not liking to wear mourning clothes for 30 days after the death of your mother.

***Before completing Exercise 3, return to the orientation materials where you left off on page 2.***

**Exercise 3: In the Mind of the Beholder**

In the first part of this exercise, read the description of the eight instances of behavior given below and write down your immediate response to or interpretation of that behavior in terms of your own cultural values, beliefs, or perception. The first one has been done for you.

a. A person comes to a meeting half an hour after the stated starting time. This person is late and should at least apologize or give an explanation.

b. Someone kicks a dog.

c. At the end of a meal, people belch audibly.

d. Someone makes the OK gesture at you.

e. A woman carries a heavy pile of wood on her back while her husband walks in front of her carrying nothing.

f. A male guest helps a hostess carry dirty dishes into the kitchen.

g. A young man and young woman are kissing each other while seated on a park bench.

h. While taking an exam, a student copies from the paper of another student.

Let's go to the second part of the exercise ...

In this second part of the activity, you are asked to imagine how these same eight behaviors would be perceived or interpreted by someone from a culture different from your own. (The particular cultural difference is described in each case.) Read each behavior and the description of the culture, and then write in the space provided how you think a person from such a culture would interpret that behavior.

a. A person comes to a meeting half an hour after the stated starting time. How would this act be interpreted;

\* by someone from a culture where people always arrive half an hour after the stated starting time?

\*by someone from a culture where meetings never start until at least an hour after the stated time?

b. Someone kicks a dog. How would this act be interpreted;

\* by someone from a country where dogs always carry disease?

\* by someone from a country where most dogs are wild and vicious?

c. At the end of a meal, people belch audibly. How would this be interpreted;

\* by someone from a culture where belching is the normal way to compliment the cook?

d. Someone makes the OK gesture at you. How would this be interpreted;

\* by someone in whose culture this gesture is obscene?

\* by someone in whose culture this gesture has romantic connotations?

e. A woman carries a heavy pile of wood on her back while her husband walks in front of her carrying nothing. How would this be interpreted;

\* by someone from a culture where carrying wood is never done by men?

f. A male guest helps a hostess carry dirty dishes into the kitchen. How would this act be interpreted

\* by someone from a culture where men never clean up after a meal?

\* by the hostess from that same culture?

g. A young man and young woman are kissing each other while seated on a park bench. How would this act be interpreted;

\* by someone from a culture where men and women never touch in public?

h. While taking an exam, a student copies from the paper of another student. How would this act be interpreted;

\* by someone from a culture where exams are not fair and are designed to eliminate students at various stages of the educational system?

\* by someone from a culture where it is shameful not to help your friend if you can do so?

***Before completing Exercise 4, please return to where you left off in the orientation materials on page 3.***

**Exercise 4: Sharing the Reward**

First, answer the questions on Sharing the Rewards...

For six weeks, you and the three other people in your division have been working on an important special project. Now the work is done and the four of you have been awarded a cash prize of $20,000. How should this money be distributed? In answering this question, you may find the following information useful:

a. Person A did 25% of the work.

b. Person B did 40% of the work.

c. Person C did 25% of the work.

d. Person D did 10% of the work

In the blank spaces below, write the cash prize you think each person should receive:

Person A $ :

Person B $ :

Person C $ :

Person D $ :

How did you reach your decision?

How would a collectivist interpret this?

***Before completing Exercise 5, please return to where you left off in the orientation materials on page 4.***

**Exercise 5: Tales from the Peace Corps**

***Please choose 4 of the 7 scenarios (pgs. 8-11) and write a 1-2 paragraph about each situation. What did they do right or wrong? Compare their experiences to your own. Which situation do think is most relevant to what you might experience this summer?***

1. **Madagascar**
2. **Dominican Republic**
3. **Guinea**
4. **West Africa**
5. **India**
6. **Jordan**
7. **China**

**STEP THREE: QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please complete the Region Specific Orientation Questionnaire found under the Forms and Information tab of your program’s webpage. After you are finished, please email the Questionnaire and your Orientation Worksheet to Rachel Thiel at [rthiel@nd.edu](mailto:rthiel@nd.edu).