

Week 15

Topic: Talking About Differences

Guiding Questions:

What is a stereotype?

What is culture shock?

Are cultural differences beneficial or detrimental? Or neither?

How can we resolve cultural differences?

Goals:

- I. To comprehend the importance of cultural sensitivity and understanding
- II. To uncover the difference between stereotypes and reality
- III. To remove negative connotations from the recognition of cultural differences

Activities:

1. Trainwreck (game): Students stand in a circle with one volunteer in the middle. Each student should take off their shoes or use another object to mark their original position. The volunteer will say one fact about themselves (ex: I am an only child, I have lived abroad, etc.) and everyone who can identify with the fact will run from their original spot and try to take an open spot. Students cannot move to an open spot directly to their left or right. The last remaining student who is not able to find a new spot is the new volunteer. If the volunteer shouts “Trainwreck!” everyone must run and find a new spot. At the end of the game hold a brief discussion about differences. What facts seemed to apply to the most number of people? What facts seemed to apply to the least number of people? Can any of these differences be attributed to culture?
2. The Nacirema Activity (See Appendix F)
3. Have You Heard Activity (See Appendix G)
4. [Bursting Stereotypes](#): Get hands on with your students and “burst” stereotypes that unfairly label groups or individuals.