



Cross-Cultural Communication

Culture Shock



Settling into a new cultural can often be difficult. Some behaviors are shocking and difficult to accept? Work with your group to list specific types of culture shock that you know about and/or have experienced.

What was the cause of the misunderstanding? Was it language related? Was it a physical action?

Do some research. What kind of cultural suggestions are often given? What kinds of problems are frequently noted? Did you know about these problems? Do you agree with the suggestions? Why or why not?



Think about etiquette, manners of speaking, relationship behavior, interactions between younger and older people, interactions between women and men, interactions between strangers and friends, and/or personal space.

What is the most effective way to avoid, correct, and/or accept cultural behavior that is different from what you expect or are comfortable with?



Go out onto campus and interview students. You might want to talk to two different groups:

- foreign students who may be suffering from culture shock
- Canadian-born students who have dealt with inappropriate behavior from visitors
 - How did they deal with the incidents?
 - How did they feel at the time and now?

You might also talk to your host families. What kinds of behaviors did they notice from their visitors that were somewhat problematic? Were the problems because of cultural differences?

When Canadians talk to you, what can they do to make you feel more comfortable? What do they do that makes you feel uncomfortable?