

Teaching Culture!



www.teaching-culture.de

Name of activity: Can only words tell you what I mean?

Type of activity: roll play

Topic: non-verbal communication, cultural awareness

Material: cards, class rum

Number of learners: at least 6-8 people, with a group of more people divide them into smaller groups.

Language level: B1-B2

Time: about 30 minutes, if everyone should talk to all participants.

Goal: At the end of the activity, the learners will be able to realize how people from other cultures behave when meeting other people, especially when talking about things they don't want to. What topics they talk about in public.

Possible challenges: for the teachers are that all students will go along with this role play and will play the role they have got according to the plan.

Preparation: cards where the students will find there instructions and blank cards for the follow up (max 6 per student) enough pens of course, and some material to fasten the cards on the black board.

Procedure: All students are supposed to be participants in an international conference and mingle around while waiting for dinner to be served. Every student gets a card with instructions how to behave (e.g. keep distance to people or stand close by, look people in the eyes while talking to them or don't look into peoples faces) and what topics to talk about (e.g. ask about peoples families, their salaries, political situation in their countries, the weather, cultural events and so on). According to the rules/habits in their own culture the students will experience situation where they feel comfortable or not.

Follow up: To follow up the role play all participants shall write max 3 cards about positive and max 3 cards about negative experience. Than everyone will put their cards on the black board. All participants will see how the others felt and why and discuss it. By the end of the discussion the group should have found out that people behave different in different cultures and you can't discuss any topic in any culture openly. Be aware of your own and other cultures.

Teaching Culture!



www.teaching-culture.de

License:

This document is under the License for the Non-Commercial Use of Content in School and Universities

"Copyright (c) 2006 Teaching Culture Project Consortium,

Contact:

Alexandra Haas (Project Coordinator)
Head of Dept.
Rhein-Sieg VHS
Ringstr. 24
D-53721 Siegburg
Germany
Tel./Fax +49 2241 30-9746/-9729
alexandra.haas@rhein-sieg-vhs.de.

This work may be used by anyone in accordance with the terms of the MuSoft License.

The terms are made available at our homepage as a .pdf file
or at <http://www.uvm.nrw.de/opencontent>
or may be retrieved upon written request at the headquarters of the Kompetenznetzwerk
Universitätsverbund MultiMedia NRW, Universitätsstraße 11, 58097 Hagen, Germany.