

Group Project: Inter-cultural Analysis

Topic: How do cultural “lenses” affect the way that two countries deal with the same issue?

Example: In Saudi Arabia, being gay is a crime that can get someone killed by the government, but in the United States, gay people are minorities with “protected status” so they can’t be discriminated against by employers. They can also get married in all 50 states.

This project has these objectives:

1. To research, explore and understand a significant issue and the ways that it is experienced in different countries.
2. To develop critical thinking skills for being detecting and assessing cultural factors – to appreciate both our own cultural framework and that of others
3. To build our communication skills – both in writing and in presentation.
4. To improve skills in collaboration and team-work

This is a pair project. The pair must decide together each of the critical elements in the assignment: the specific focus; division of responsibilities; etc. Both members of the pair must participate in a presentation made to the class. After the presentation, each individual member will then submit his or her own typed paper based on the work you have done together.

TASKS:

[1] **Select a topic or focus that represents an example of a global problem or issue–**

Examples of topic ideas

- **Treatment of sexual assault on women** (For instance, why is the rape conviction rate so low in India compared to other countries, even though there are an equal number of rapes?)
- **Rights of women** (Do women have the same fundamental rights/are recognized on the same level as men in other countries in terms of property ownership, voting, schooling options?)
- **Technology** (Do the countries’ citizens have access to uncensored news/television/internet, or does the government control the information that is spread?)
- **Religious Values** (What is the main religion in each country? How strongly does religion influence day-to-day life in the 2 countries you chose? Are members of each country free to choose their own religion or to not be religious?)
- **Views on Age** (How are elderly people (seniors) treated in these 2 countries: are they respected or seen as old-fashioned and not connected to modern times? Is there an emphasis placed on youth like in the U.S.? At what age does someone “become an adult”? Are students treated as adults? Do they have jobs, etc.? What rights and responsibilities does someone have when he/she becomes an adult?)

- **Rights and status of minority groups** (Do all groups in the countries have equal status? How about income or rights, such as marriage? What are the “cultural values” reflected in this? What are the minority groups, and how are they treated?)

[2] Choose a presentation format – you can use any internet-based presentation tool that can be accessed by everyone in the group. Examples: Google Slides, Google Sites, WordPress, etc.

[3] Decide individual responsibilities for the project among group members.

[4] Prepare and Present as a group.

[5] Each individual must also prepare a typed paper (3-5 pages), based on the group work. This paper should also present the topic you chose and how each country approaches the issue.

Research:

You will need to FIND information from reliable sources. We will be visiting the library on Monday, 10/22 to work on this and learn about finding good sources of information.

Evaluate & Analyze

First, summarize the information you find. Then, make comparisons and judgements based on information. Add your own ideas and observations. What does the information tell you?

Communicate

Remember that you – as a group and as an individual – are teachers; you are teaching us something new

In your group presentation, and in your individual paper, please answer these questions:

- What did you learn about this topic in both of the countries you chose?
Make sure you cite your sources. Show where you got the information.
- How does each country treat this issue differently? (women’s rights, gun control, etc.)
- How does the culture of each country influence the way they approach the issue? (For example, how does the Muslim religion in Saudi Arabia affect the way they treat gay/LGBTQ people?)