

My Favorite Assignment – ABC 2020 Virtual Conference

Let the Cat Out of The Bag! – Raising Intercultural Awareness with Hedgehog, Giraffe and Co.

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TIPS FOR INSTRUCTORS

- Tell your students that this is a "team building exercise" and that they will receive a cooperative task that they have to solve together as a group (see task sheets below).
- Have them go together in groups of 4-5
- Make sure that each group receives one task sheet, that each group has a different animal, and that students cannot see the other groups' instructions to avoid giving away the fact that they all have to draw different animals.
- 1st round = training round
Students are allowed to communicate openly about strategies to develop the most efficient strategy.
- 2nd = timed round → NO TALKING!
The no talking rule is essential because the simulation will not work if students realize too early that they have been drawing different animals
Tell students to use the back of the task sheet for their drawing
- 3rd round = simulation round (also timed) → STILL NO TALKING ALLOWED!
Tell students that they did so well that you will now raise the difficulty by having one person from each group move one group further
→ IMPORTANT: Make sure that you collect all the used task sheets with the instructions and the previous drawings and give students a new (empty) piece of paper for the third round; tell them the task remains the same.
- Discuss impressions, e.g. using these discussion prompts:
 - ✓ What were your impressions? – As established group with a fixed strategy / As a newcomer to the group?
 - ✓ Which strategies did you use to solve the task?
 - ✓ How was the newcomer integrated?
 - ✓ Does the newcomer first observe what is going on or does s/he just join the group and draw with them?
 - ✓ What happens if the cat suddenly looks like a hedgehog?
 - ✓ Do the others explain the rules non-verbally?
 - ✓ Which strategies did the group develop to integrate the newcomer?
 - ✓ Which strategies did the newcomer develop to fit in with the group and adapt to the new rules?

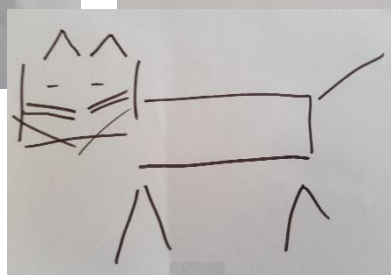
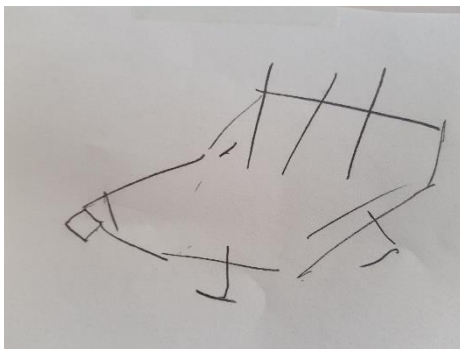
→ Consider: Expectation of "normality": What is "normal" and what is considered to be "natural" or "self-evident" may differ substantially depending on culture!

[Check out our MFA Video instructions!](#)

SUGGESTIONS TO FACILITATORS

- To achieve maximum learning impact, lead a guided discussion in class about outcomes (see discussion prompts above).
- Also point out similarities and draw parallels between the simulation and actual intercultural encounters.
- You may additionally ask students to reflect on the assignment and their reactions and feelings in the form of a short essay or a recounted Think-Aloud-Protocol. This helps them to organize and outline their thought processes and emotional reactions.
- Ask your learners to change perspective and include their thoughts about the respective other role's (as newcomer / as member of the established group) feelings during the exercise.
- This exercise may serve as an introduction to a more in-depth case study taking place in an international business context, sensitizing students for the possibility of different perspectives and expectations of normality in the international environment.

SAMPLE STUDENT DRAWINGS:



Task: Draw a CAT together.

- Use only straight lines. (You will not be graded on your drawing skills 😊)
- Each person may only draw one line.
- After drawing your line, hand over the pen to the next person.
- Hand around the pen clockwise.

Draw cat here



Task: Draw a GIRAFFE together.

- Use only straight lines. (You will not be graded on your drawing skills 😊)
- Each person may only draw one line.
- After drawing your line, hand over the pen to the next person.
- Hand around the pen clockwise.

Draw giraffe here



Task: Draw a HEDGEHOG together.

- Use only straight lines. (You will not be graded on your drawing skills 😊)
- Each person may only draw one line.
- After drawing your line, hand over the pen to the next person.
- Hand around the pen clockwise.

Draw hedgehog here



Task: Draw an ELEPHANT together.

- Use only straight lines. (You will not be graded on your drawing skills 😊)
- Each person may only draw one line.
- After drawing your line, hand over the pen to the next person.
- Hand around the pen clockwise.

Draw elephant here



Task: Draw a DOLPHIN together.

- Use only straight lines. (You will not be graded on your drawing skills 😊)
- Each person may only draw one line.
- After drawing your line, hand over the pen to the next person.
- Hand around the pen clockwise.

Draw dolphin here

