
Advantages and dangers of culture blocks

CONTENTS

- Working on and questioning Hofstede model through one's personal life experience

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Hofstede's categories – printout / digital copy
- In-person setting: Poster size blank sheets of paper (1 per group) and markers
- Online setting: PowerPoint

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Reflect and share on the notion of categories in the context of culture
- Identify their reasons for existing and their limitations
- Share and distance oneself from one's personal experience
- Implement active listening

OVERVIEW

- After watching video #1 (in class or at home for a flipped approach), make groups of 3 or 4
- Give each person, individually, time to think about this question (about 5 minutes):
 - From what you know about Hofstede's model, can you think of 1 situation/reason why this type of essentialist view or reductive view of culture can be useful?
- Ask participants to stand up and go to one person from another group
- With this new person, each one gives her own idea, the person who listens then repeat what she heard and understood to make sure it is what her partner meant. The two do the same with their own input.
- Ask participants to join their original group of 3 or 4
- Each one, says her own original idea and the idea heard from the other person in any order without mentioning which one is hers or not.
- They write down / type all the ideas.
- Discuss if some items don't fit in the idea of any person of the group

- Repeat the same process with the question:
 - From what you know about Hofstede's model, can you think of 1 situation/reason why this type of essentialist view or reductive view of culture can represent a danger?
- At the end, ask each group to create a poster or a Powerpoint presentation of 5 minutes maximum to present the advantages and limitations to the group. They should not forget to mention at the end of the presentation if they heard some views the whole group disagreed with. This can then be taken as a full group discussion.

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

- <https://www.hofstede-insights.com/fi/product/compare-countries/>
- Thiagi game: <https://www.thiagi.com/archived-games/2015/2/25/one-will-get-you-ten>