

COM 104 Interpersonal Communication
Dyadic Diversity Exercise

EVALUATION FORM

Members' Names: Tennielle Awong & Marcela Guerra

Presentation (Oral) 30 /30
Paper (Written) 30 /30
Total Points Earned 60 /60

✓	Identified as the greatest cultural difference between the two (explaining first impressions and their effect in subsequent interaction and whether they were true or false).
✓	Focused on cultural variables and indicated what would have been missed if the interaction stopped after five minutes.
✓	Explained how member have changed thinking, attitudes, behavior as a result of the exercise.
✓	Identified new cultural information that was acquired.
✓	Identified some cultural similarities between the dyad and explained the effect of these similarities in the interaction.
✓	Identified problems that took place between the dyad, based on cultural differences and similarities.
✓	Justified why the resources are appropriate to the dyadic experience.
✓	Appropriately cited references, both orally and in the paper, following APA or MLA standards.
✓	Including two written sources addressing a misunderstanding that has arisen or could develop due to cultural differences.
✓	The paper conveyed one voice, rather than sounding as if it were written by two authors.
✓	Overall Comment: <i>excellent work (both the presentation & paper). The audience learned a great deal ab. both of you & your cultures. Worthwhile project!</i>

Marcela Guerra and Tennielle Awong

Dyadic Diversity Exercise

On our first day of class we were very excited to start COM 104-01. We were enthusiastic to see what our teacher and classmates would be like. We were both one of the first students to arrive and quickly began to talk. The conversation exuded a good vibe and realized that we were both so culturally different despite having similar personalities. The world is full of new things to learn and we saw our distinctive cultural background as a fun and useful opportunity to get to know each other and engage in working on the dyadic diversity paper together.

One of us is from Chile and the other is from Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad is a cosmopolitan island. This means that there are many cultures and a mixture of people inhabiting the island. In comparing the countries, Chile has a mixture of only Spanish and Indigenous cultures. Chile contains only Hispanic people and does not have any other types of mixture of people. Whereas, people of Trinidad are of Black, White, Indian, and Chinese races as well as an intertwined mixture of people. These are Blacks mixed with Whites, Blacks mixed with Indians, Blacks mixed with Chinese, Whites mixed with Indians, Whites mixed with Chinese, etc.... We are both very racially different, one of us is Indian/Black born in Trinidad and the other's parents are Hispanic and was born in White Plains, New York.

The culture of Trinidad and Tobago and Chile is similar yet different at the same time. Both cultures are very collectivistic and focus on achieving goals for the benefit of the population as a whole rather than simply the interest of a single person. An example is the long term commitment that there is to family. Both nations are very family oriented and put a strong emphasis on the value of family and how important it is to people's lives. Celebrations and weekends are a popular time when our families have a chance to spend time together.

The main religion of both Trinidad and Chile is Christian/Catholicism. Other minor religions in Trinidad are Hindu, Muslim, Anglican, Shouter Baptist, Seventh Day Adventist,

Jehovah Witness, etc... The minor religions in Chile are Protestant, The church of latter day saints, Jehovah Witness, Jewish, Atheist, Agnostic, and Muslim.

The government in Trinidad is a Parliamentary and it is run by a prime minister who is a woman. British laws are implemented due to British Imperialism. Chile is a Democratic Republic. The main language in Trinidad is English again due to British Imperialism; however broken English dialect is mainly spoken. The main language in Chile is Spanish.

Within five minutes of meeting each other the greatest cultural difference that we identified was the difference of people's race within our culture. Trinidad has a very diverse body of people and Chile only has Hispanic people. Our first impressions of one another were different. The first impression of Marcela was stereotyped. She was immediately categorized as Hispanic. She was looked upon as pretty and seemed sociable and friendly. The first impression of Tennielle was that she seemed very pleasant and genuine. There was an uncertainty regarding Tennielle's race and background, especially after hearing her accent. The fact that both of us had a good first impression of one another made it possible for our subsequent interaction to be effective because we were able to communicate well and learn more about one another. We found common personality traits such as our cheerfulness. After our conversations, the impressions that we had of each other turned out to be true; Marcela was a nice person and Tennielle was very friendly.

After the first five minutes we learned each other's ages, hobbies as well as likes and dislikes, in addition to where one another originated from and a little bit about our families. Marcela is nineteen and her hobby is going to the gym. Whereas, Tennielle is 23 and her hobby is swimming. In the area of likes, Marcela's obsession with Hello Kitty and love for accessories was apprehended and Tennielle's very interesting background and courage was brought to light.

On the other hand, Marcela dislikes people who do not speak the truth and Tennielle dislikes when people take advantage of her kindness. In addition, there was admiration to how strong and independent Tennielle was for being able to come from so far and leave her home and family to study abroad. On the topic of family, Marcela's parents are divorced; however they still maintain a good relationship. Whereas, Tennielle's family is still together but she is also very much attached to her extended family. If the interactions would have stopped after five minutes we would have missed out on how funny and smart we both were and we would have been disappointed to not learn more things about one another.

After meeting each other there has been an increased sense of healthy academic competition for both of us. We learned that we are both very smart and ambitious. We are able to motivate ourselves to raise our standards higher and do even better in school. Our aim of achieving the most intelligence as possible has grown further. There has also been an increased appreciation for both Trinidadian and Chilean cultures because we have both spoken about our culture and how fascinating it is. An example is the different style of government that one nation has from the other. New cultural information about us is that Marcela is of Spanish (Spain) descent and that Tennielle's culture is very energetic, loves to celebrate and have fun.

Some of our cultural similarities are that we are both come from different places with distinct cultural backgrounds adjusting to the environment which Miami has. We both enjoy making jokes and are easy going and fun. Our families are a very important factor in our daily lives and we are extremely close to them. This helped our interaction to be very fun and effortless because we are so alike despite our very different background. We both adapted well to learning about new cultures and acclimatize well to the term of ethno relativism when it comes to seeing many values and behaviors as cultural rather than belonging to all people. We both think

equipped in having the skills to understand other people's opinions and not judging them. Our minds are open to new people and things.

One misunderstanding that did arise was the issue that one of us automatically assumed that Trinidadians were all one specific race and the other stereotyped men of Chile to act submissive to women and therefore, that they did not portray the attitude of machismo. However, a large number of Chilean men have a very chauvinistic attitude towards women, a phenomenon known as machismo. Women are subject to whistles and vulgar language. Men often shout sexually explicit comments (piropos) to women who they find attractive (Anonymous, 2008).

Almost all the races present in the Caribbean are to be found in significant numbers in Trinidad. The Indian population is identified amongst the population. As well as, the Chinese are a significant presence in the community. There is even a handful of Caribs in Trinidad, when this, the indigenous has died out completely from most of the other islands. There are also traces of African, Spanish, Whites and French within the Trinidadian population. Due to slavery, Trinidad has a diversity of peoples and cultures (Hodge, 1975). The sources are appropriate for the dyadic because it enlightens to the fact that the assumptions that we made were incorrect and it shows further evidence from both culture with indicates otherwise.

This is the model dyadic paper (and presentation in our class. all requirements were fulfilled and all aspects of the assignment were incorporated both in the paper & presentation. What a worthwhile paper to read & presentation to enjoy!

30/30

References

Culture and Customs. (2008, December 4). *Welcome to the Chile Information Project*. Retrieved

June 5, 2011, from <http://www.chipsites.com/public/family-a-education.html>

The Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago. (1975, February 21). *RCN D.C. Metro*. Retrieved June 5,

2011, from <http://www.users.rcn.com/alana.interport/hodge>

✓