ON DIFFERENCES OF BACKGROUND

Excerpted from the Study Abroad Toolkit & based on the intercultural films and videos by Crossing Borders Education and the Facilitator Manual by SIT Graduate Institute

Step 1:
Individual, Group and Society *(15 minutes)*

In this version, there is less discussion of both cultures in the actual film clip before description and application of the DIVE model to the example in the clip.

Facilitator (F): Read the clip summary aloud

The clip shows Cory and Huanyu reacting entirely different to the very same situation of a poverty simulation. While Cory experiences a very emotional reconnection to his birth mother, Huanyu feels offended by the Western facilitator.

F: **Introduce these questions BEFORE viewing for students to journal while viewing:**

- How did each of the three people (Cory, Huanyu, the workshop facilitator) in the clip view the simulation?
- What cultural (and sub-cultural) groups are represented by Cory, Huanyu, and the facilitator? Based on these cultural identities, are those reactions what you might expect? What assumptions or data is informing your response?

Show film clip 3.2: *On Differences of Backgrounds (7 minutes)*

F: **AFTER viewing instruct the group to journal their responses** *(3 minutes)*

Comment that when people look at Cory and Huanyu's explanation of their experience of the poverty simulation, most can relate to either (or both) of those perspectives. Ask them to think about what in their own experience and history may be influencing their reaction to the film clip?

- Can you recall an experience since you have been here where you and someone else have had a very different interpretation of an event that has happened?

F: **Instruct the group to share their response to this question with the person next to him/her.** *(5 minutes)*

Step 2:
Large Group Debrief & Closure *(10 minutes)*

- In the large group, gather some examples of events with different interpretations. When the event happened, how did the individual(s) handle the situation?

- On the flipchart, brainstorm ways (in addition to DIVE and others discussed in first session) we can achieve a more nuanced understanding of this culture and how to apply that learning to other interactions in our lives.