

Reading Reflection #4

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I think cross cultural ethics are very important in the world we live in today because we live in an increasingly global society and need to learn how to communicate and cooperate with people of differing cultures. I think an excellent avenue for achieving cross cultural ethics is a study abroad experience. As mentioned on page one of the article, fundamental understanding of cross cultural ethics arises from living in another culture, which is exactly what study abroad entails. I think it is very unfortunate that most students never get a chance to study abroad and many Americans have never been abroad in their life (Otis, 2015). I believe in an ideal world, study abroad would be a required and anticipated part of every university curriculum, or even in high school.

In addition, when studying abroad, the student is a representative of their own culture and ethics (p 3). When I studied abroad, I was the only American student in my class and was often asked about questions as if my answer applied to all Americans. Like this article says, we are all influenced by our own background, so it made sense that I felt uncomfortable answering for all Americans rather than answering just for myself (p 4). I also think it's important to keep that information in mind when disagreements arise. Being aware of the fact that people's ethics are created from their own experiences helps when it comes to understanding their position.

The virtuous action situation posed on page 16 was another interesting part of this article. The idea of doing something good because of your own virtues rather than as a result of threat or punishment is something that is applied at CPY. For example, when a child does something mean or disrespectful, rather than saying "That was wrong," the staff members are supposed to ask, "Was that the right thing to do?" By doing this, the children think about their own actions and are actively developing their own cross cultural ethics. Questioning your actions around others also brings up the realization that even within the same group culture, we often have differences between smaller groups as well as individuals (p 9). Even an action as simple as questioning "Was what you did the right thing to do?" gets kids to think about right and wrong, *why* that action was right or wrong, and how others may perceive their actions. I think this is very important behavior to encourage because actively thinking about your own ethics is difficult, but starting at a young age is most likely an advantage more so than a hinderance.

Otis, G. A. (2015, Nov 11). *Americans less likely to travel abroad*. New York Daily News. Retrieved from <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/americans-travel-survey-article-1.2431648>

Language itself doesn't convey culture (p 9)

Warring nature of humans, create an issue, take sides (p 11)

Play the part of presumed role (p 14)

Middle class keeps innovation alive (p 19)

Interactive communications 4-6 ppl (p 23) groups at SL, more management, but maybe set up for future scenarios