

EDCO 101: Cultural Immersion Event/Activity/Experience

Each student will attend/participate in a cultural immersion event/activity/experience. The purpose of this is to seek out an experience that is outside of your comfort zone and focuses on an area of culture different than your own. This could be something focusing on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion, language, etc.

You will need to choose your own event/activity/experience, as no one else can decide what is out of your comfort zone. One option to locate your event/activity/experience is on the cultural events website: <https://www.winthrop.edu/culturalevents/events.aspx> (note that there are always new events being added.).

Other options can be found on the student organizations page. Under “Find an Organization,” you will see categories of various organizations. Some that might be especially helpful for this assignment are Campus Ministry, Cultural, Political, and Religious. <https://www.winthrop.edu/studentorgs/default.aspx?id=5816>

Campus events are not your only options; you can choose activities in the community as well.

Examples of immersion experiences used in the past are:

- Attending a religious place of worship significantly different than your own
- Attending a religious place of worship if you are an atheist or agnostic
 - Interviewing an international student
 - Interviewing someone who speaks another language
- A democrat attending a campus republican meeting or vice versa
 - Talking with a homeless person
- Interviewing someone from a different ethnicity

This is not an exhaustive list. It’s just something to get you thinking about what you might do.

You need to get approval on any event/activity/experience you choose. If you do not get prior approval from your instructor, your choice may not fit requirements and may not be accepted. Your individual instructor will let you know how they prefer to be contacted concerning the approval. You may submit requests for approval to your instructor at any time; however, the final deadline for approvals will be given by your instructor. The reports are due near the end of the semester, but you don’t want to wait until the last minute to get started.

Write-Up/Presentation of Report

The immersion report can be submitted in written form or in another creative form. Regardless of the form you choose to complete your report, the following sections **MUST BE** covered:

- 1) Cultural Autobiography
 - a. Share a brief overview of who you are culturally
 - i. There will be many opportunities in class to think about and practice this before this is due at the end of the semester.
- 2) Process of Selecting the Experience
 - a. How did you decide on your respective experience?
 - b. Why did you choose it?
- 3) Overview of the Experience
 - a. Give an overview of the experience you participated in.
- 4) Cultural Awareness
 - a. What are your personal takeaways, your “so what” as it relates to classroom readings/discussions? (focusing on cultural responsiveness)
 - b. Did you learn something new about someone/thing else? About yourself?
- 5) Future Implication for the Classroom
 - a. What are your professional takeaways, your “so what” as it relates to your future as a teacher (during undergrad field work and/or when you get your own classroom)?
- 6) Any Remaining Questions about Experience?