



SAFSA Opening Event Antwerp 2008

The intercultural toolbox
Thursday 11 September 14.00–16.00

SAFSA Opening Event 2008

Speakers

Margaret Pusch, SIETAR USA

Darla Deardorff, Association of International Education Administrators, USA

Jeanine Gregersen–Hermans, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

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JH Joanneum

Barbara Bolt
intercultural mangagement

Ewa Derkowska-Rybicka
Nicolaus Copernicus University

SAFSA budget 2008

Total budget available in 2008	16.273
Costs:	
Travelcosts	2071
Design/printing and miscellaneous	0
Feewaivers	0
Total costs 2008	2.071
Result 2008	14.202
Result 2008 transferable to 2009	5.000
Result training courses 2008	
Advising international students	4.420
Cultural learning in education abroad (to be finalised)	
Result training courses 2008 transferable to 2009	4.420
Result workshop(s) Antwerp 2008	
Result workshop(s), transferable to 2009	3.260

SAFSA

Professional section for members involved in:

- providing services and guidance to international students and scholar
- advising students about study abroad opportunities
- promoting study abroad programmes

SAFSA FOCUS

- enhancing intercultural communication skills
- orientation and advising programmes
- practical aspects of international programmes
- promotion and advocacy of international mobility
- quality in advising.

SAFSA Priorities 2009?

- Spend your money
- Counseling and support session
- On line support workshop
- More contact with people in sending institutions pre-departure prep and return
- Integrating intercultural into the university environment
- Opening study abroad programs to the new majority students—full degree programs; joint degree programs
- Teach trainers how to teach intercultural dialogue
- More best practices sessions—publication on this topic

SAFSA Training

Advising international students
Spring 2009, The Netherlands

Making internationalisation work on campus
2009, Munich

Cultural learning in education abroad
2009, Copenhagen

Which professional qualifications are needed to make toolbox exercises into a meaningful learning experience?

Tool: Carrousel

Jeanine Gregersen – Hermans, EAIE Antwerpen 2008.

Interest

From the results of various evaluations of training programs it can be concluded that participants often indicate that they have benefitted most from contributions of other participants. How can an exercise be constructed that allows for sharing and feed back in a constructive way and gives ample space to all participants?

Need

The exercise enhances the interactivity of a training program and enables the facilitator to

- draw effectively on the experience of participants in a safe and fun setting;
- create a joint learning experience;
- serve several learning styles.

Time

The time needed to complete this exercise depends on its specific objectives. On average the exercise takes between 25 and 45 minutes, including a debrief.

Response

- Participants reflect on their own experience
- Participants share their own experiences and insights

Objectives

- To enable participants to quickly share experiences and insights with a large number of other participants;
- To enable participants to reflect on some basic skills for facilitating interactive group work;
- To provide participants with an experiential insight in the use of the "carrousel"

Instruction

The carrousel is an interactive procedure, which works effectively both in small and large groups. It is important that the topics for discussion and the assignments are adapted to suit the participants and the objective of the program.

Participants are divided into two groups. Group A forms the inner circle and group B forms the outer circle. Both groups face each other. The facilitator introduces the exercise by stating that the group will receive topics for discussion (in this case 3) and small assignments connected to the discussion topics (in this case 2 or 3 depending on the time). The pairs are allowed to talk for several minutes per topic (in this case 2 or 3 minutes). After each topic/assignment participants will move to a new partner.

Materials

- A well constructed list of topics for discussion and assignment related to the specific objective of the exercise;
- A bell
- A watch

The topics for discussion and assignments

The facilitator may develop between 3 to 7 topics for discussion and 2 to 6 skills assignments. Since the exercise provides an intense experience to participants the time for discussion and assignments should not exceed 30 - 45 minutes. During the exercise it is advisable to keep track of the level of concentration and involvement of the participants and adapt the exercise accordingly. For example one can give more or less time for a topic, one change a topic or can shorten the list of topics; one may repeat or skip an assignment.

Topics for discussion and assignments should be formulated short and specific.

The facilitator alternately gives topics for discussion and assignments.

Example topics for discussion

- Discuss one or two main reasons to use an exercise or a simulation in a training program.
- Share your biggest fear when conducting an interactive exercise.
- Discuss most important competencies of a facilitator in an interactive session.

Example assignments

- Greet your partner in a culturally appropriate way
- Hold hands while sharing
- Tell your partner what you appreciated from this short interaction

Example questions for the debrief

- What have you learned?
- What have you learned about facilitating?
- What have you learned from an intercultural perspective?