

Idea for Cultural Diversity Classroom activity:

Submitted by:

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We have a very diverse student population in our program at Queens College, City University of New York. The students don't necessarily intermingle quite as much, within classes, as we would wish, so I made the following teamwork assignment part of the counseling and education class:

I mixed the teams by different cultures, and had them discuss in the teams the following aspects:

1. What are your culture's beliefs about the cause of diseases?
2. What are your culture's beliefs about healing? Who can do it or help with it? What are the methods used and respected?
3. How does this system fit into the American health care system?
4. What are key aspects to be aware of, e.g. things to not do, things to always do?
5. Who makes decisions in the family?
6. What are the basic rules of communication: greeting, posture, eye contact, others
7. What are staple foods and typical dishes?

At the end of the team work, to collect something for the entire class, every student wrote two aspects on two separate white boards:

1. The most relevant fact I learned (relevant to my field: Nutrition or Exercise)
2. The most surprising fact I learned.

The attached image is focused on the second aspect. I did take pictures of both discussion boards separately as well, to post to the LMS for this class.

There are certainly more high-tech ways to collect responses – there is a bit of “tech-fatigue” among the students, so white board was just right for them this semester.

