

4.4 Visiting

Goal

The students engage in a non-verbal simulation play to act out the encounter between strangers with different expectations. Through the subsequent analysis, their reflection competence should be furthered and they should acquire deeper experiences with intercultural communication.

4th–9th grade

30–45 minutes



Materials:
role instructions for hosts
and guests (see template on
next page).

Hints:

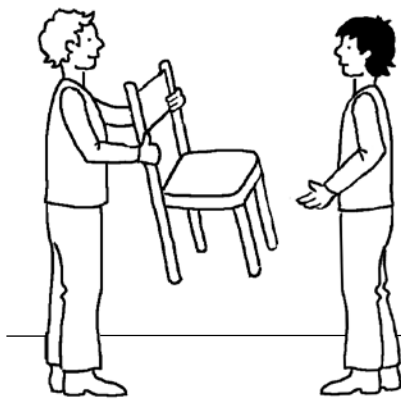
- The sensibility about nonverbal communication can be furthered when students are asked to purposely observe themselves or others in communication situations in the next 2–3 weeks and to bring examples to class.
- Source: Intercultural training (see 4.1 above).

Procedure:

- Students are divided into pairs. One assumes the role of the host, the other plays the guest. All receive role instructions for their group (see next page). During the preparation time, the hosts remain in the classroom, the guests go next door or in the hallway. During their preparation time, the students must reflect and consider how they will interpret the points listed on their assignment sheet nonverbally, without speaking.
- The encounters begin after about ten minutes. No words may be exchanged. The play lasts ten minutes. The instructor then asks a few pairs to briefly report on their experiences.
- Reflection and discussion with the class as a whole. Prompts:
 - What worked well? why? What kinds of emotions did it provoke?
 - What did not work well at all, and why? What kinds of emotions were triggered?
 - Were the guests able to decode the hosts' behavior?
 - What did it provoke when certain expectations were not fulfilled?
 - What were the expectations all about?
 - Generalization: where do similar situations occur in reality with different expectations? What have you yourselves already experienced in this regard? What was your attitude?
 - Do you know examples of situations with different expectations which specifically have to do with cultural differences?



Role assignments for hosts



Behavior of the hosts:

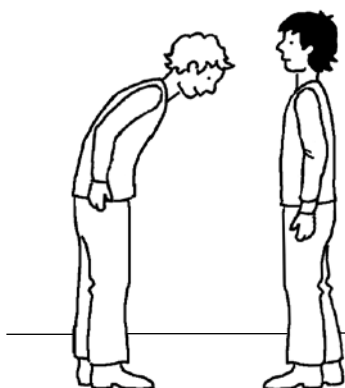
- They signal "yes" by rolling their eyes.
- They signal "no", by sticking out their tongue.
- If they want to show something, they do not use their hands, but by staring intently.

The hosts' expectations of the guests: they should...

- ... remove their shoes.
- ... first wash their hands.
- ... give the hosts a small coin as a present.
- ... fetch a chair for the hosts.
- ... sit cross-legged beside the chair.



Role assignments for the guests



The guests' expectations of the hosts: They should...

- ... bow in greeting the guests.
- ... show their teeth.
- ... give out their phone numbers.
- ... give the guests a personal artifact.
- ... write their name on a piece of paper.
- ... offer the guests a chair.