Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters

Module 4
Activity 1: Attitudes

Match one of the four intercultural competences from the attitudes category with one of the AIE excerpts below:

a) respect for otherness
b) empathy
c) acknowledgement of identities
d) tolerance of ambiguity

AIE excerpt 1

It seems she is quite on the defense. That is something that puzzles me, but when I think about it I believe it has to do with her cultural ways and what she has been through. Perhaps it is a self-preservation thing. I know it will take time to find out.

Competence: _____

AIE excerpt 2

They belonged to a group of Roma from one of the Balkan countries and had migrated from there years before. Manja was the older of the two girls, she born in Italy. Esme, the younger one, was born in Spain. They were the first migrants I ever met. …. During this time I experienced the basic difference between refugees and me, the simple fact that I am privileged to live in a secure legal status, while they are not.

Competence: _____

AIE excerpt 3

I am sure William was nervous showing me the things that were very important to his identity and his life. I am sure he was worried about what I would think and how I would react. It is no doubt hard to be a refugee (they had been in Norway for seven years escaping civil war in Sierra Leone), and come to a strange country where everything is different. Especially Norway, because it is a country that sometimes, not always, but sometimes can be quite cold to people who 'do not belong'.

Competence: _____

AIE excerpt 4

Although my upbringing is different – for example, I believe in icons while in the evangelical church there are no such things – I accepted what she said without arguing about the sense of it all. She said that people did not usually ask her about her religion and why she does some things differently. Maybe she was pleased to be able to explain her faith to me. Her parents taught her to believe certain things. I don't think about her religion all the time. She is just one of my friends.

Competence: _____