

# Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



## Module 6

### Activity 3: Addressing problematic AIE stories

Suggested solutions for strategies you can adopt.

- |                 |                               |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Reporting    | 4) Acknowledging subjectivity | 7) Empathising   |
| 2) Distancing   | 5) Self-assessment            | 8) Knowledge     |
| 3) Re-imagining | 6) Language analysis          | 9) Making amends |

| STRATEGY                      | ACTIONS FOR THE WRITER   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 6) Language analysis          | a) Pick out any 'strong' words in your AIE. Why did you choose these words? Are they justified? Do they over-dramatise the encounter?  |
| 8) Knowledge                  | b) Do you have sufficient information about the other person and their culture to make the judgements you do? What other information do you need?  |
| 2) Distancing                 | c) Describe the situation objectively. Consider what behaviour might be expected in that situation. Compare with your own behaviour and with the behaviour of the other person.          |
| 4) Acknowledging subjectivity | d) Read through the AIE and consider what it says about you. Do you sound angry, hurt or frightened? Where did/do these emotions come from? Are they justified?                          |
| 7) Empathising                | e) Imagine yourself in the situation of the other person you are writing about. How would he/she feel? What would he/she think about your behaviour?                                     |
| 5) Self-assessment            | f) Consider the question: Have I shown prejudice, intolerance or rudeness in this encounter?   |
| 3) Re-imagining               | g) Go through the story again and imagine how it might have been if you had felt differently, done something differently, found another method of communication.                         |
| 9) Making amends              | h) If you conclude you have not acted well, you might consider whether it would be appropriate to make a friendly gesture towards the other person such as an apology, a note of thanks. |
| 1) Reporting                  | i) Do you think you were genuinely at risk in the encounter? If so, report to your facilitator so appropriate action can be taken.   |