

Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



Module 6

Activity 2: Consolidating and extending learning

Commentary for task (i)

Extract

Change / Action

- a) The student was alerted to the importance of sensitivity and respect in intercultural encounters. She realised that she could experience her encounters even more fully if she sought to increase her knowledge about the people she was going to meet.
- b) The experience made this particular teacher more tolerant and accepting of people from other cultures. She made it part of her day-to-day teaching to address the damage that prejudices can incur.
- c) This mature student became aware of the importance of responding to communication hardships calmly and rationally. Following her problematic experience, she took an additional class in deaf culture and communication and became determined to take extra classes for communicating within the deaf community.
- d) This young girl reflected on the notion of home and realised how much she cherished the place that was her 'home'.
- e) Learning here was about relating to people as culturally unique individuals rather than seeing them as representatives of national, ethnic or religious groups.
- f) This research fellow appreciated the process of reflection itself as a way to make sense of what had been a tricky situation. She was prepared to find out what the rest of the participants thought of the encounter.
- g) This young volunteer had come to appreciate respectful behavior independent of the position the other participants in the encounter were in and their physical abilities. He decided against quick and ready assumptions.