

Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters



Module 6

Activity 3: Addressing problematic AIE stories

(1)-(9) are different strategies you can adopt for tackling problematic stories.

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

Match the strategies with the descriptors in the table. The first one has been done for you.

| 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? |
| | 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? |
| | 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. |
| | 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? |
| | 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? |
| | f) Consider the question: Have I shown prejudice, intolerance or rudeness in this encounter? |
| | 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. |
| | 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. |
| | i) Do you think you were genuinely at risk in the encounter? If so, report to your facilitator so appropriate action can be taken. |