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# Building Bridges for Understanding Culture



# Agenda

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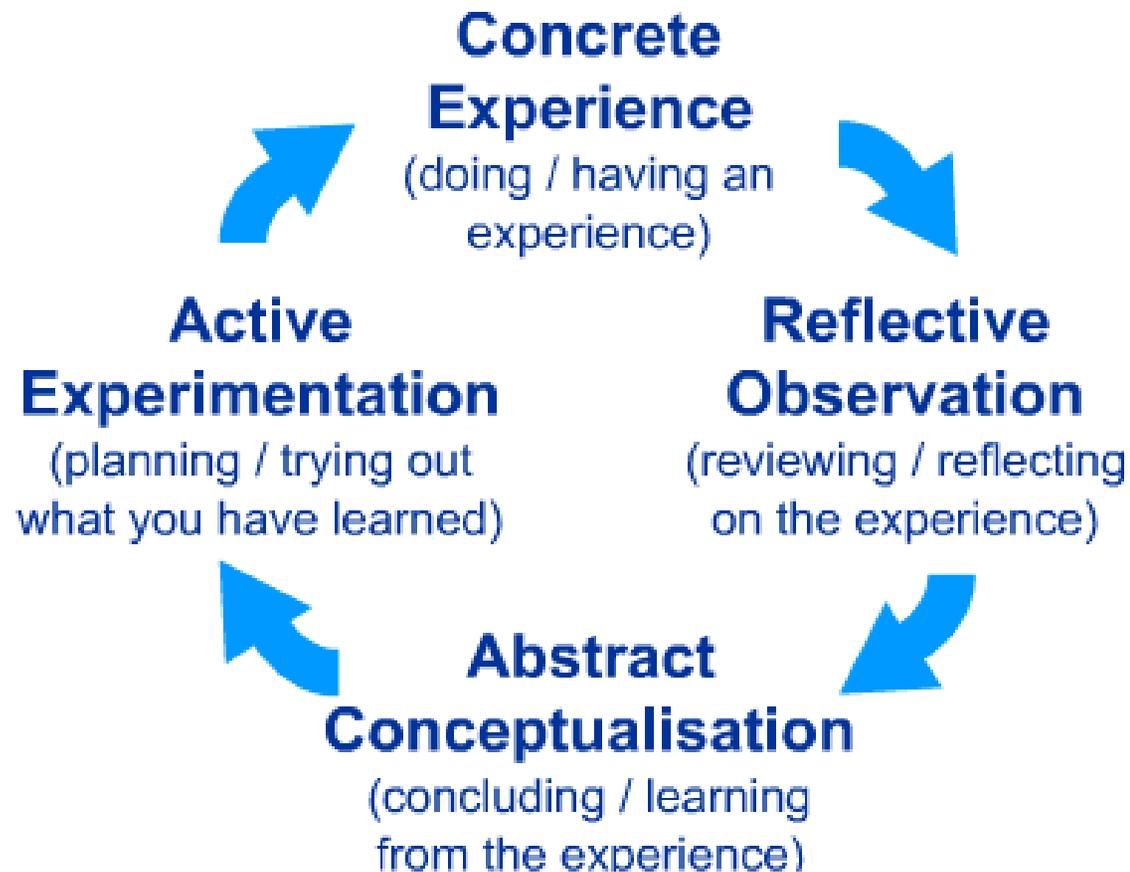
- Kolb's Cycle of Experiential Learning
- Model's of Culture Shock
- Bennett's Development Model of Intercultural Sensitivity
- Building Bridges for Understanding Culture
- Understanding Culture through Service Learning
- Building in Processing Time



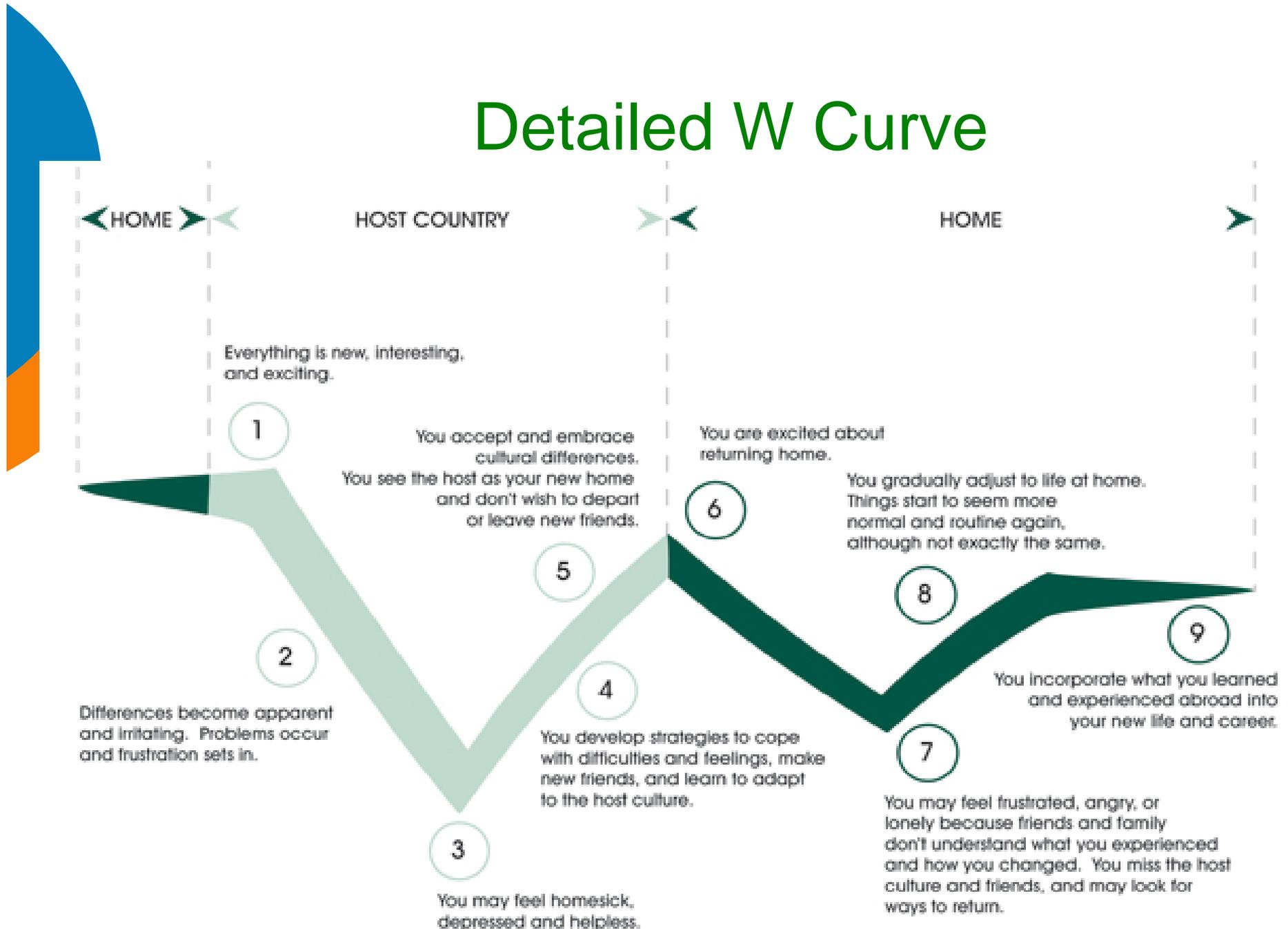
# Kolb's Cycle of Experiential Learning

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Program design can ensure that students 'complete the cycle' of experiential learning



# Detailed W Curve



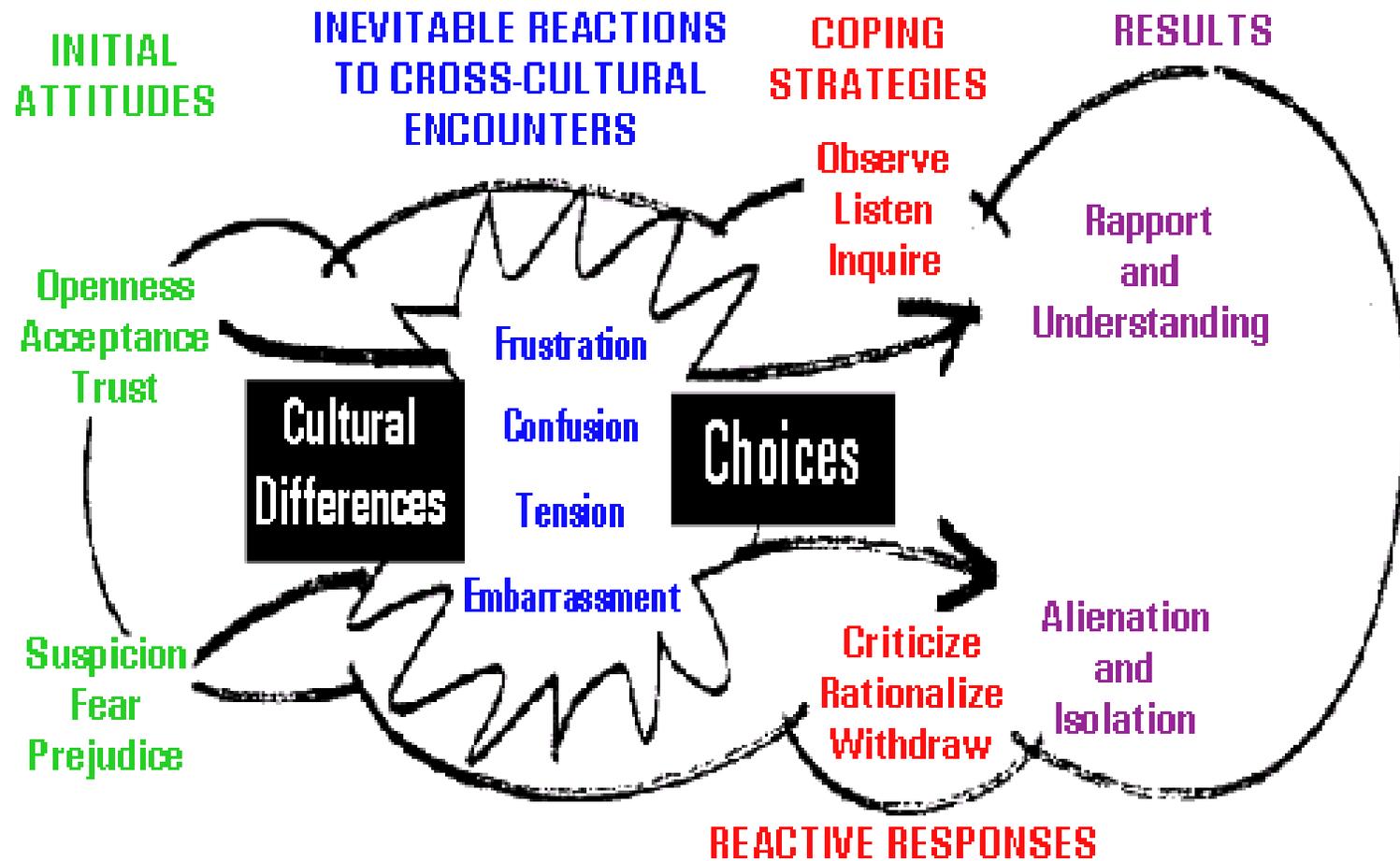


# CIS student Staci Mills, University of Stirling, Scotland Spring 2011:

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- I will be leaving my small town in South Carolina and traveling to Stirling, Scotland on February 11, 2011. I'm extremely excited but nervous at the same time because I don't really know what to expect. I have never been out of the United States and I can count on one hand the number of times I've been out of South Carolina or its close neighbor North Carolina. This will also be the first time I have ever been on a plane or in an airport, something my friends find hilarious because of the fact the first time I am on a plane I will be going to another country. I guess I jump right into things. I can say that I didn't jump into this experience though. If anything it felt like a lifetime before I got a chance to go abroad and even then it felt like it would never come. With only twelve days before I leave, it's finally starting to hit what I'm about to do.

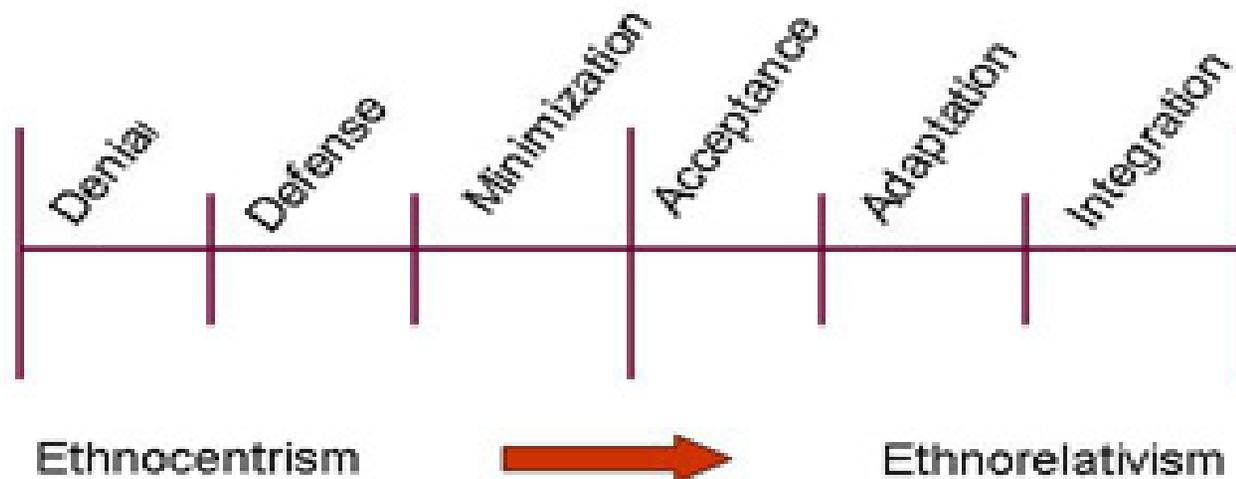
# Cycles of Culture Shock



# Milton Bennett's Interculturalist Model

## Development of Intercultural Sensitivity

Experience of difference





# CIS Student Christine Nagle

## Semester in Seville, Spring 2011

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- Title of Blog “Cultural Difference”
- Observation: Time is not of the essence
- I never realized what being a capitalist society in the United States really meant until I came here. While Spaniards are by no means lazy, work is not a priority among the people. People here go to work and are productive, but are not defined by the work they do, nor do they allow themselves to continuously focus on their work.
- Another stereotype of Spaniards relating to time is that they are always late. This is not at all true, it is just that their view of time is very different than time in the States. For example “morning” here means until 2 or 3 pm, while “afternoon” continues until darkness, in the summer being around 9pm.



# Building Bridges For Understanding Culture

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## ○ Creating Program Experiences

- Intercambio Partners
  - Connecting with local students
- Host Families
  - Experiencing a true taste of local life
- Discussion Panels
  - Invite local experts to speak about important issues
- Service Learning Opportunities
  - Challenge students through working with the community
- Focusing on Issues Close to Student's Lives
  - Investigate cultural issues of interest



# Service Learning Is...

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- Serving the community
- Learning about real life issues
- Volunteering with an organization
- Team work
- Developing new skills
- Sharing ideas
- Feeling good about being a part of positive change
- Inspiration
- Being a part of something big
- Connecting

○ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggLFaKODoXE>



# Building in Processing Time

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- Dialogue Groups
  - Focused discussions on important topics
- Guided Journal Entries
  - Build in mandatory 'journal entries'
- Blogs for Friends and Family
  - Encourage blogging / facebook posting so that the program experience is shared with community at home
- Discussion Partner Walks
  - Encourage inter-group sharing through structured discussions
- Creating a Newspaper of Program Learning
  - Look at local media – What is in the news? There is so much to learn from looking at what 'sells' newspapers. Have students create 'program news'. What headlines will there be?
- Reflection Papers
  - Reflection is a key component in experiential learning!

# It's all part of the experience!

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Bennett M. (1993). *Towards a Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity*. R. Michael Paige, ed. *Education for the Intercultural Experience*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press,.

Kolb D. (1984). *Experiential learning: experience as the source of learning and development*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.



*-Fin-*

 *abroad*