

Visualizing Culture: Using Preflection to Understand College Students' Perception of Culture Before a Study Abroad Experience

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Introduction

- To join a global society, college students must develop global competency.
- The National Research Council released a recommendation for institutes to provide students with international exposure.
- Preflection allows learners to understand the potential impact of an experience before it happens.

Implications

- Understand college students' initial perception of culture and if preflection can have an effect on cultural and global competency.
- Allows students to (a) investigate the world as they know it now, (b) weigh perspectives, and (c) communicate ideas.
- Could reduce prevalence of poverty tourism associated with study abroad programs.

How it Works



Ask students to answer the question: *What is culture?*



Use photographs to answer this question: A form of participatory action research called photovoice.



Students select two photographs they feel comfortable sharing with peers.



Students discuss selected photos with peers and instructor in a semi-structured focus group.

Resources Needed



A sample of individuals who are about to embark on an international experience.

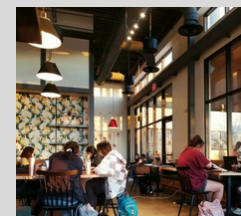
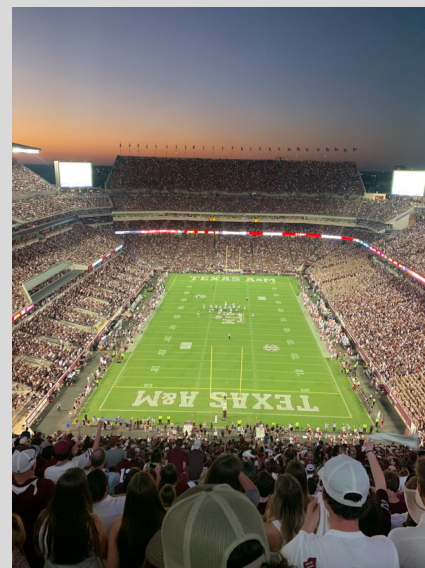
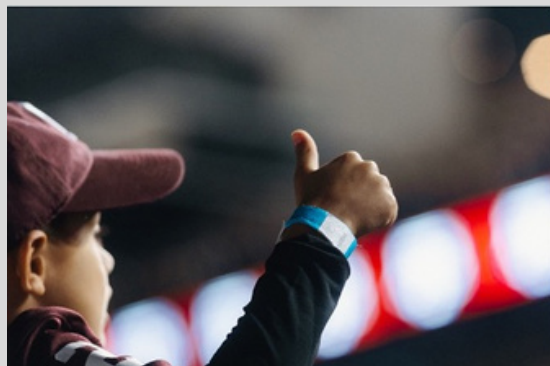
Ensure participants have access to a photo-taking device.



Technology needed to project photos on a screen to enlarge photos when viewing.

Advice and Future Plans

- Use photovoice as a method to conduct a comparative analysis on how college students perceive culture before and after a study abroad experience.
- Use photovoice as a method within the agricultural education space to observe how culture impacts agricultural practices and public perceptions.



Full Abstract and References



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