

Group Exercise MT1.2_6: "Cultural Perspectives Puzzle"

Objective: To help participants recognize the influence of cultural differences on critical thinking and decision-making through a simple comparison exercise.

Duration: 25 mins

Instructions:

1. Scenario Setup:

1. Divide participants into small groups of 3-4 people.
2. Give each group a scenario where a business decision must be made that involves two different cultures with distinct approaches to communication, leadership, and negotiation.

2. Scenario Example:

1. *Scenario:* "You are part of a multinational team negotiating a business partnership between a company in Japan and a company in the US. The Japanese company prefers a formal, hierarchical structure and indirect communication, while the US company values direct communication and a more casual approach to business relationships."

3. Group Task (15 minutes):

1. Each group discusses how they would navigate the cultural differences in the scenario. They must come up with a strategy to handle communication, leadership styles, and negotiation tactics to ensure a successful partnership.
2. Encourage groups to consider how cultural awareness impacts their critical thinking when making decisions.

4. Debrief and Discussion (10 minutes):

1. After 15 minutes, each group presents their solution.
2. Facilitate a discussion:
 1. How did cultural awareness affect your decision-making process?
 2. What challenges did you face in considering both cultural perspectives?
 3. How can cultural differences influence critical thinking in global business or everyday life?

Materials Needed:

- Printed or projected scenario for each group.
- Notebooks or flipchart paper for brainstorming.