



TLT RESOURCES

MY SHARE

Breaking down barriers through cross-cultural interactions

Edward Chan, Kennesaw State University & Margaret Kim, Doshisha Women's College

Appendix A

Pre-Interview Questionnaire

1. How much time have you spent living outside of your native country?
2. Have you ever interviewed a native English/English-as-a-Second-Language speaker before?
3. How would you rate your ability to communicate with someone from a different culture on a scale of 1 (completely unable) to 5 (very good)?
4. What customs do you follow when you communicate with someone from your OWN culture? For example, U.S. Americans are known for valuing direct eye contact; on the other hand, Japanese people generally avoid direct eye contact when communicating with people other than friends and family.
5. How do you think communicating with a person from another culture is different than a person from your own culture?
6. Apart from nationality, how would you feel if you interviewed someone who is different from you in terms of gender and age?
7. Interacting with someone is a two-way street—in other words, communication goes both ways. What will you do or say to prepare for this interaction?
8. How will you feel before meeting these students?
9. What are your expectations—both positive and negative—for this cultural exchange?
10. If for some reason there is miscommunication and you can't comprehend what is being said by the native English/English-as-a-

Second Language speaker, what will you do OR how will you solve this problem?

Appendix B

Interview Questions created by U.S. Students for Japanese Students

1. How is U.S. culture portrayed in Japan?
2. When do Japanese people start to learn about the U.S. and U.S. culture? What do you learn about U.S. culture in high school?
3. How do you feel about the U.S. influence in Japan? Over the past ten years, which parts of the Japanese culture do you think have been "Americanized?"
4. How do you think the Japanese influence on U.S. culture is accepted in the U.S.?
5. What do you think the U.S. perception about Japan is?
6. What kinds of things from the U.S. have become popular in Japan?
7. Would you like to move to the U.S.? Why?
8. What brand do you associate most with the U.S.? Is that a brand you'd prefer over a Japanese brand?
9. What are the most famous U.S. businesses in Japan? What do you think of them?
10. Are there any other countries that have a similar cultural impact on Japan as the U.S. does? If so, how and why do you think these other countries are influential in Japan?

Extra/Optional Questions

1. What is the first U.S. thing you ever encountered?

2. What is something in Japan that originally came from the U.S., but in your opinion is more Japanese than American?
3. What sorts of celebrities are you interested in? Are any from the U.S.? Why do you like U.S. celebrities, if any?
4. Are Barbie dolls popular in Japan?

Appendix C

Sample Icebreaker

Have students find their partner(s) by using Japanese trivia question and answer pairs. For example, the Japanese students are each given a trivia question about Japan and the U.S. students are each given the answer to one of the questions. Partners for the interview will be determined by the matching question and answer.

Appendix D

Post-Interview Questionnaire

1. Did your ability to communicate improve? Would you think your rating was the same or different from before the interview? Scale of 1 (completely unable) to 5 (very good).
2. What was the other person's (interviewee's) way of communicating? (e.g. direct eye contact) In what ways were they different from *your* way of communicating?
3. How did the identity of the person you interviewed affect the interaction?
4. What things did you learn from this interview experience that you can use for future cross-cultural communication experiences? (e.g. interview skills, communication skills)
5. How effective were your preparations for the interview?
6. How did you feel *after* meeting with the other students?
7. Were your positive and negative expectations fulfilled by the cultural exchange? How?
8. Were there any communication problems? If so, what were they and how did you deal with them?