



INTERCULTURAL INTERVIEWS

- ✓ Each student interviews one person from a culture other than their own. Suggested questions are:
 - Why do you think people want to live in certain areas of the U.S. but not the others?
 - Why do you live where you do?
 - How would you define “good life”?
 - What are, in your opinion, the two greatest problems facing our world today?
 - What is something positive that has happened in our world in the past year?
- ✓ Students compare notes on the information and attitudes expressed during the interviews in class.
- ✓ The goal is to look for the similarities and universals that underlie different cultures.
- ✓ Teacher provides students with the tentative questions. They should try to follow them, but they are also welcome to adjust them to their specific situation.
- ✓ The interview needs to be done as homework. Students have to record it and then bring transcripts to class.
- ✓ After the interviews have been conducted, students discuss the information gathered. Teacher elicits answers by starting with what

was said at the interview. Then, students are to compare this information with their own cultures. NOTE: It's important to encourage students not to make judgements about one point of view being better than another.

- ✓ Teacher prepares a world map for the classroom use ahead of time.
- ✓ Teacher asks the students the following questions about the interviewing process and the preceding discussion:
 - Were you surprised by anything that the person you interviewed said? What? Why?
 - Was it easy or difficult to answer the questions about your own culture?
 - (For international students only) Did you learn anything about your ability to communicate in English? If so, what was it?
- ✓ Teacher hands out the passage below and asks the students to share their reactions to it.

Oh, East is East, and West is West, and
never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's
great Judgement Seat;
But there is neither East nor West, Border,
nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
tho' they come from the ends of the earth!

(It's the refrain from "The Ballad of East and West" by Rudyard Kipling.)