

DIVERSITY CITY WALK - "THE TRAIL OF THE STRANGE" – Similarities and Differences



BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Learners are divided into small groups of three or four people. They have to follow on foot a given route through the city, whilst, at the same time, completing different tasks.

Firstly, they have to keep their eyes open and reflect about things that are different from their home cities or towns, and, secondly, they have to engage local people in discussion so as to establish what is "typical". Thirdly, photos have to be taken for use in later class room presentation.

This exercise strengthens the awareness of new surroundings and both promotes and encourages group-reflection on common experiences. **Managing diversity** is a key competence in our times and has a lot to do with awareness and self awareness, with similarities and differences, and, not least of all, with the importance that each of us attaches to these similarities and differences. *Diversity City Walk* can be used as a tool in this direction.

This exercise can also be used as a reminder for directional training.

Materials

Detailed descriptions of routes for each group. (Make your students follow unusual paths, direct their attention/their look to things they would probably miss, make them open doors and enter rooms they would not enter by themselves.)

At least one digital camera for each group.

Laptop, beamer or prints of pictures for the presentation.

Steps

First day: The city walk

Learners are divided into small groups of three to five people and provided with route instructions.

All groups have to then fulfill the following tasks which center upon the traces and different aspects of the city and its people.

1. What is different from your home country or city, and, what might be the reason for this. Do you have any idea as why people behave differently, or why things are organized in different ways, etc.?

Take pictures to illustrate your findings (3 to 5 are enough)!

Possible fields of similarities & differences: culture of daily life, daily activities, codes of conduct, behavior, taboos, gender interaction, city life, clothing, cultural diversity, intergenerational interaction, traffic signs, guidance system etc.

2. Talk to local people: Try to get ideas from them about what is typical (ex.given: Viennese people).

Take pictures to illustrate your findings (3 to 5 are enough)!

3. At the end of the city walk, photos should then be selected for use in the following day's presentation.

Second day: The class presentation

Each group now presents the photos they have selected and the experiences that these pictures illustrate. Ideally, each participant should present one picture and its story.

Feedback: Don't forget to actively seek feedback on this activity.

A tip for other kind of city walks with the *Europe* as topic:

Europaspuren: URL <http://europaspuren.at> (Online 2013 02 15)

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