

Chapter 8: Analyzing Intercultural Sensitivity in Your Writing Samples

Identify your Development of Intercultural Sensitivity in your Philosophical/Religious/Spiritual Writing Sample

Review your Philosophical/Religious/Spiritual Writing Sample. Search for phrases that indicate the level you were writing from on the Bennett Scale. Use the chart on page 194 as well as the discussion between pages 187-193 to answer the below questions (in purple):

1. What group did you identify as the most different from your own in your Philosophical/Religious/Spiritual Writing Sample?

The group that I identified as the most different from me was atheism. I chose this because my Religious belief is Christianity and atheist is the complete opposite of my religion because they do not believe in God.

2. Which level of the Bennett Scale do you think you were writing from when you wrote your Philosophical/Religious/Spiritual Writing Sample?

I believe that I was writing in the defense response on the ethocentric side. I was writing from this side because I strongly disagree with what they believe and I used phrases such as they should try to learn more about God because they are really missing out. I feel bad that I feel this way but it is my reaction to their beliefs.

3. What phrases most clearly indicate that you were writing from the Bennett level you identified in 2?

The phrases that I used that clearly indicate that I was writing from the defense level were, "I believe that if you commit crimes and do wrong things that you can still change your life and be forgiven because that is just how great of a God he is." Another example in my writing is, "I understand that if you are atheist that does not make you a horrible person, as God has created us all in hopes of us living a good life. I believe that if you are an atheist that you can still be saved and most often people are atheist because no one has reached out to them and helped them to understand the grace of God and how glorious of a life it is to believe in him." These clearly indicate that I am using the defense response because I have an attitude of putting my religion against theirs.

4. What 2 actions discussed in the "Growing Beyond..." section related to the Bennett level you identified in 2 do you plan to take in order to improve your intercultural sensitivity toward the Philosophical/Religious/Spiritual group that you identified as most different from you?

The action suggested in The Growing Beyond section that I plan to improve my thoughts and feelings towards the religious beliefs that identified the most different from mine is finding certain similarities between my religion and theirs because I may be misunderstanding their culture. Another plan I have is to talk with someone else who has these different beliefs to get a view of how they feel.

Identify your Development of Intercultural Sensitivity in your Majority Writing Sample

Review your Majority Writing Sample. Search for phrases that indicate the level you were writing from on the Bennett Scale. Use the chart on page 194 as well as the discussion between pages 187-193 to answer the below questions (in purple):

1. What group did you identify as the most different from your own in your Majority Writing Sample?

The group that I identified most different from mine is people with down syndrome. I chose this because my majority identity is Neurotypical and I think that down syndrome and neurotypical are on opposite sides of the spectrum.

2. Which level of the Bennett Scale do you think you were writing from when you wrote your Majority Writing Sample?

The level on the Bennett scale that I am writing from is the acceptance scale which is on the ethorelative response side. I wrote from this side because I feel and for people with down syndrome and think that they live a life that is very different from people that are neurotypical.

3. What phrases most clearly indicate that you were writing from the Bennett level you identified in 2?

The phrases that I used that clearly indicate that I was writing from the acceptance level were, "think this has shaped me to be who I am because I would be a completely different person if I had down syndrome or autism or any of these other disorders. I was fortunate enough to have been blessed with a mostly regular brain and have not had to go to the rough life of having any of these issues." Another example in my writing is, "I have heard many stories of down syndrome children/adults and it is so sad that not only they but also their parents and family members have to go through such difficult periods of time throughout their lives." These phrases clearly indicate that I am experiencing the acceptance level of the Bennett Scale.

4. What 2 actions discussed in the "Growing Beyond..." section related to the Bennett level you identified in 2 do you plan to take in order to improve your intercultural sensitivity toward the group that you identified as most different from you?

I plan to take many actions to improve my level of acceptance on the Bennett Scale such as beginning to explore and find more out about the culture associated with having down syndrome. Also, I would like to improve my skills in ways such as understanding people with down syndrome by adapting to their lifestyle and reference their behaviors and actions.

Identify your Development of Intercultural Sensitivity in your Minority Writing Sample

Review your Minority Writing Sample. Search for phrases that indicate the level you were writing from on the Bennett Scale. Use the chart on page 194 as well as the discussion between pages 187-193 to answer the below questions (in purple):

1. What group did you identify as the most different from your own in your Majority Writing Sample?

The group that I identified the most different from my minority is Male. I chose this because my minority identity is female and I feel that it is most different from male and male is the complete opposite of females.

2. Which level of the Bennett Scale do you think you were writing from when you wrote your Minority Writing Sample?

The level on the Bennett scale that I am writing from is the Integration level. I am writing from this scale because I actively have conversations with males on a daily basis. My brothers are male, my dad is a male, and my boyfriend is male. I am actively integrating with them at all points of my life.

3. What phrases most clearly indicate that you were writing from the Bennett level you identified in 2?

The phrases that I used that clearly indicate that I was writing from the acceptance level were, "I am a female and I find more in common with my boyfriend than I do my friends that are girls. Within our personality and way we act, we are pretty much the same person, except for the fact that he is a male and I am a female of course." Another example in my writing is, "I would never have thought that being female is a minority identity as about half the people in this world are female. Males and females are similar in so many ways. We are both human, need to eat, need sleep, need human interaction, and so on." These phrases clearly indicate that I am experiencing the integration level of the Bennett Scale.

4. What 2 actions discussed in the "Growing Beyond..." section related to the Bennett level you identified in 2 do you plan to take in order to improve your intercultural sensitivity toward the group that you identified as most different from you?

I plan to continue to grow through integration by seeking out people who have also developed this identity as I have. I would also like to continue to grow through integration by staying connected with my identity of being female and also stay connected with the male identity.