

Class Activity – Cultural Competence

The instructor should develop or find several brief case studies of immigrant or refugee clients. Break the students into small groups and have them address the following questions for their case study:ⁱ

1. What social work issues are raised by this vignette?

2. What legal issues are raised by this vignette?

3. What aspects of the experience suggest a crisis, and why? How would you prioritize the immigrant's needs?

4. What cultural aspects impact the situation? How would a culturally competent practitioner address the issue? How might a lack of cultural awareness on the part of the practitioner impact the situation?

5. What strengths might the immigrant derive from his or her culture in this vignette?

6. What, if anything, could be done on an organizational (meso) level to help in this case? What could or should be done on the policy (macro) level?

7. Imagine that you are a social worker seeing this client for the first time. Write and enact two brief role-plays:
 - a. A role play demonstrating culturally incompetent skills
 - b. A role play demonstrating culturally competent skills

ⁱ Questions 1-6 from Chang-Muy, F., & Congress, E. P. (Eds.) (2016). *Social work with immigrants and refugees (2nd ed.)*. New York: Springer.