

PART 1. ENHANCE AWARENESS

MODULE 1. Problem Statement: Exercise 1

LEARNING GOAL: Enhance awareness of the on-line resources available for self-study regarding the principles and practices of cross-cultural communication, in particular relevant case studies on communities and conservation.

STEP 1. Read and reflect on the materials provided in this module. If you like a brief overview, view the presentation first, then read the synthesis. If brevity annoys you, read the synthesis first, then review the take-home messages in the presentation. Notice the sources that are cited and use this information to decide which articles you want to read in more depth (STEP 2).

STEP 2. From the list on the Syllabus, pick 3 articles that you want to read for this learning activity. Notice that the footnotes provide a guide to the disciplinary perspective of each article. You may choose to read in more depth within the discipline that best matches your own, and/or choose an article from a different disciplinary perspective to add breadth to your awareness. (*TIP: use the link to [readings] provided on the top bar of the website to access additional background information to help you choose. Also, you may change your mind after you look at the articles in STEP 3, below.*)

STEP 3. Use the elearning [Discussion] tool to find and download the 3 articles that you chose. (*TIP: Go to the category for Module 1 and open the topic for Q1.1. Click on a message about each article and view the attachment. If the elearning tools are not working for you, other options include: A. Course reserves at <http://library.tamu.edu>, B. email your instructor to request access to a dropbox folder on the web, C. using the popular database [Web of Science] provided on the library website.*)

STEP 4. Read each of the 3 articles, keeping in mind what you have learned from the Presentation and Synthesis materials provided for this module. The focus of this module is on the "Problem Statement", so think about how each article is similar or different in the way it defines the problems of bridging the gaps between local communities and conservation advocates. (*TIP: For those articles that you find more difficult to comprehend, you may want to read what your peers have posted on the elearning [Discussion] thread to help get your thoughts flowing.*)

STEP 5. Use the elearning [Discussion] tool to join the ongoing dialogue about the articles you chose. Enter your comments as replies in the threaded discussion. Try to make this a dialogue, not a monologue, by responding to what others have posted. Be sure to answer all three discussion question for each of the three articles you chose. These are the "delphi" questions:

1. What works? (What did you like about the way this article defined the problem of bridging the gap between local communities and conservation advocates?)
2. What doesn't work? (Applying critical thinking, what was missing or inaccurate in the way the problem was stated in this article?)
3. Suggestions? (What could be improved about the article or list of articles?)

