During-engagement Reflection and Final Report Reflection Prompts

During-engagement Reflection Guidelines
Please thoughtfully respond to one (1) of the following prompts of your choice throughout your engaged experience. You may respond using any medium you see fit (whether you prefer writing prose or poetry, speaking, video recording, blog-type writing, etc.). Just be sure to mention which prompt you are responding to in your medium.

Rather than setting a word minimum or maximum, we encourage you to just sit down and take about an hour to do this exercise. “Let it flow,” rather than thinking about it as though it were a research paper. No need to overthink. Focus on providing your fresh, unfiltered storytelling abilities and letting your first personal voice come through as though you were talking to a friend or writing in a journal.

Reflection Due by Friday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

Prompt 1: Ethical Framework

Introduction
When we talk about actions being right and wrong, we are making judgments about personal ethical frameworks without defining them. Ethical frameworks vary from person to person and vary even more between cultures. When entering new communities, individuals are often confronted with these differences in ethical principles, forcing them to be introspective and critical of their own views.

Questions to Consider
- What ethical framework or background are you bringing to this experience? What are your guiding principles, and where do you think they come from?
- Describe an observation or experience in your community that has challenged or reinforced your ethical framework. What relevant ethical principles did you have before the observation or experience and did they change?
- How are your beliefs and ethical principles affecting your actions during this experience?

OR

Prompt 2: Biases
Introduction
It is natural to make predictions about an experience before it comes to pass. Often, those predictions involve people or communities we expect to interact with. Those predictions stem from a series of biases (conscious or subconscious) that inform how we anticipate and then make meaning of experiences.

Questions to Consider
● In light of your experiences to date, analyze each bias you had prior to your travels about the people or communities with which you planned to engage, and describe experiences you have had in the community that verify or disprove your assumptions.
● How might identifying and analyzing these biases shape your continued engagement with communities?

OR

Prompt 3: Single Story

Introduction
Chimamanda Ngozi, a Nigerian novelist and nonfiction writer, has spoken publicly about “the dangers of a single story,” that is, the unintended consequences that can arise when stories about people and cultures are told through the single lens of an outsider. To avoid these unintended consequences — and to more fully and authentically relay the story of people and cultures to which we do not belong — Ngozi encourages those who engage with communities to document experiences “in their words too.”

Questions to Consider
● Describe a time in which you recognized the “danger of a single story.” What were some of the unintended consequences of the single story? Why did those consequences unfold in the ways they had?
● What steps can you take to ensure that the experiences you document more authentically relay the stories of the people and culture with which you are engaging? How will you incorporate perspectives that are “in their words too”?

OR
Prompt 4: Identities

Introduction
We often talk about identities as categories that people fall into. Although we all understand how identity is a highly complex and shifting component of individuals, we rarely look at how our experiences shape how we perceive our own identities.

Questions to Consider
● Consider the eight identities you’ve previously identified during the cultural pie exercise. Which do you think are central to your experience? How?
● How do you think your identity is affecting your relationship with your community and organization? How is privilege playing a role in this?
● Has your experience altered any of these? Is this due to a change in yourself or in how you understand this identity?

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