

Activity on Bennett's Model

Which stage of Bennett's model do these statements illustrate? Explain.

Two statements are true facts. Which ones?

1. Cultural differences aren't important – the main thing is to treat people as individuals.
2. If people come to my country, I expect them to adapt to the way we do things.
3. Globalization means there is now one business culture everywhere in the world.
4. I try to follow the famous saying, 'When in Rome, do as the Romans do'.
5. The most important thing is to be aware of your own culture and the effect your behavior has on other people.
6. My company has been working successfully internationally for many years, and I travel a lot for my work. I suppose that means that I'm interculturally competent.
7. What I like to have with me when I go abroad is a list of dos and don'ts.
8. For communication to work in international meetings, it's important to speak directly and put your cards on the table.
9. If I get invited to dinner at seven, then I arrive at seven, regardless of where I am – it's just a matter of politeness.
10. If people have clear goals that everyone shares, then cultural differences are not so important.
11. It is quite clear that international teams are less effective than teams made up of people from the same culture.
12. German companies invest a lot in intercultural training. The others don't seem to be doing nearly as much. Why should we always make the effort?