Perspectives in Progress:
Unpacking study abroad in the context of the first year

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September 30, 2011
Freshman Seminar Abroad Symposium
Michigan State University
Reflective Learning Model

LEARNING CATALYST
- Academic courses
- Life in residence
- Volunteer & Service-learning
- Internships, co-ops, practica
- Study Abroad
- Organizational and leadership experiences
- Other life events

REFLECTION
- Learning
- Self awareness
- Critical thinking
- Skill identification
- Planning
- Decision-making

INTEGRATION
- Transition awareness
- Skill development
- Problem solving
- Ability to contribute

Imperative to ask contextually meaningful questions

• Stimulates critical thinking
• Advances integration of student learning
  – Helps them connect the dots!
• Builds toward discovery and advancing knowledge essential for the emerging economic paradigm
Engage in experience → Describe experience objectively → Examine per category → Personal growth, Professional growth, Specific skill(s), Knowledge gained → Articulate Learning

Modified from Clayton, P (2010) PHC Ventures
It’s ALL About Skills! Really!

- Developing professional competencies
- Communicating effectively
- Solving problems
- Balancing work and life
- Embracing change
- Working effectively in a team
- Working in a diverse environment
- Managing time and priorities
- Navigating across boundaries
- Acquiring knowledge
- Thinking critically
- Performing with integrity
“The questions we ask determine where our thinking goes.”

~Michael Scriven and Richard Paul
Resources for Unpacking

• Research Brief:

• Videos & Resources in collaboration with MSU & University of Texas-Austin CIBER
  – [http://ciber.msu.edu/unpacking/](http://ciber.msu.edu/unpacking/)

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