Welcome!

As you come in, please think of a question that you’re hoping to reflect on as part of this session, or a goal you have for the session. Write on the post-its provided, and we’ll share them in tables as we get started.
Personal Reflection, Purposefully Shared: Techniques for Enhancing Learning and Development Along the Continuum

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Framing Reflective Work
The tools we will share are designed to:

- Foster a space of a continued reflection, growth, and development long after students have returned from their program sites

- Bridge academic learning and personal development

- Create community among diverse students

- Break the local/global divide
Core Components of Our Reflective Work

• Containers vs. content

• Tools for adaptation vs. prescriptive answers

• Flexible, iterative program that is responsive to student feedback
Prompt: Write about a tension (intra/interpersonal, political, socio-economic, etc.)
Open Letters
David Lee, GESI Uganda, 2016

Prompt: Write about a part of your identity you’re seeing or feeling in a different light in-country.
Student Feedback

- Open Letters helped me learn about my teammates’ individual personalities as they shared things that they liked or disliked or things that hurt them or made them feel at home. It helped that we could see this experience from different perspectives while still being in it.

- Open letters forced me to be thoughtful about my experience and to journal about topics I would normally not. My NGO team bonded over sharing our open letters from the beginning. They also gave us discussion points as a team and allowed us to understand each other further.
Open Letters Workshop

• Activity: 7 minute letters
  – Write about what you wish you could say to someone you met in-country, but can’t or don’t know how.
Open Letters Workshop

• Activity: Open Letters Sharing (10 minutes)

  – One person talking at a time

  – Push yourself to be open to sharing, even if it’s uncomfortable. Remember, this is a tool for capacity building, not an assignment.

  – After each letter, responses should come in the following forms:
    • These are things that resonated with me...
    • These are things that I have questions about...
Emotional Mapping
Emotional Mapping

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Your Reflections on the Process

• How could this function within your program?

• What questions do you have?
Works Consulted


• Resource Guide from Campus Compact and Global SL: *Research Informing Reflective Practice*
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More Information:
- Exploring Writing for Social Change, Professor Robert Gundlach
  - www.engage.northwestern.edu/writing/index.html
- GESI Website:
  - gesi.northwestern.edu/
- Open Letters Curriculum:
  - gesi.northwestern.edu/logistics/academics
- GESI Story Slam Recordings:
  - gesi.northwestern.edu/about/stories/
Access this presentation

- Personal Reflection, Purposefully Shared: Techniques for Enhancing Learning and Development Along the Continuum

- http://globalsl.org/reflectivepractice/