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| C:\Users\bjaco\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\SLS-Teaching-Toolkit-Logo_Stacked-Initials.jpg | Cross-Cultural Communication |
| **Discipline:** All | **Type:** Discussion, in-class exercise | **Time Commitment:** 30 mins | **Category:** GT1000 |
| **Big Ideas:** [Shared Values](http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/big-idea/shared-values); [Collaborative Problem Solving](http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/big-idea/collaborative-problem-solving) |
| **OVERVIEW:**This activity, adapted from D.M. Stringer and P.A. Cassidy’s *52 Activities for Improving Cross-Cultural Communication*, introduces students to three primary patterns of communication pacing. These patterns can vary in different cultural groups, and while one style may be predominant in a certain culture, that does not mean everyone from that culture will communicate in that way. Learning how different people use different styles will shed light on how students perceive each other. This tool was contributed by Susannah McFaul. |
| **INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. Read [“Pacing” from D.M. Stringer and P.A. Cassidy’s 52 Activities for Improving Cross-Cultural Communication.](http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Toolkit-Docs/pacing.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)
2. Print and cut out the “Pacing Cards” included in this tool.
3. Present the attached [PowerPoint](http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/cross-cultural_communication_lecture.pptx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to your students as an introduction to pacing patterns.
4. Place participants in groups of 3. Assign each person in each triad a different pacing card to indicate which pacing pattern they should adopt.
5. Have the students engage in a 5-min conversation, on any relevant topic, where each person adopts the pacing pattern indicated on their card.
6. After 5 minutes, debrief with the Discussion Questions on slide 5.
7. Conclude with slide 6.
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| **SLS STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES & ASSESSMENT:**The Serve-Learn-Sustain toolkit teaching tools are designed to help students achieve not only SLS student learning outcomes (SLOs), but the unique learning outcomes for your own courses. Reflection, concept maps, rubrics, and other assessment methods are shown to improve student learning. For resources on how to assess your students’ work, please review our [Assessment Tools](http://serve-learn-sustain.gatech.edu/tool-category/assessment). **This tool achieves SLO 2. It also achieves GT1000 SLOS 2 & 5. See the end of this tool for further details.** |

**Want Help?**

Susannah McFaul is the contact for this tool. You can reach her at susannah.mcfaul@gatech.edu

Cross-Cultural Communication: Pacing Cards

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| **TURN-TAKING**When someone is speaking to you, wait until he or she finishes, and then begin speaking.  *“It wouldn’t be polite to interrupt while you’re speaking.”* | **TURN-TAKING**When someone is speaking to you, wait until he or she finishes, and then begin speaking.  *“It wouldn’t be polite to interrupt while you’re speaking.”* |
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| **Pausing**Listen closely when someone is speaking to you. When he or she finishes speaking, reflect silently on the topic for 15 seconds before responding.*“How can I start to respond when I haven’t had time to think about what you said?”* | **Pausing**Listen closely when someone is speaking to you. When he or she finishes speaking, reflect silently on the topic for 15 seconds before responding.*“How can I start to respond when I haven’t had time to think about what you said?”* |
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| **Overlapping**When someone is speaking with you, jump into the middle of the sentence to add your own thoughts or show enthusiasm. Do not wait until they have finished speaking. *“How can I resist making the conversation more interesting by enriching it with my information? -I have to say something!”* | **Overlapping**When someone is speaking with you, jump into the middle of the sentence to add your own thoughts or show enthusiasm. Do not wait until they have finished speaking. *“How can I resist making the conversation more interesting by enriching it with my information? -I have to say something!”* |
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Pacing and Conversation Styles across Cultures

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What happened during this activity? How did you feel? What did you do? What did you learn?
2. How might someone with one preferred communication style misinterpret someone using another style? Why is this a concern?
3. How does this activity relate to diverse teamwork? What are some strategies that you could use to include those with a different style than your own?

SLS Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems.
2. Demonstrate skills needed to work effectively in different types of communities.
3. Evaluate how decisions impact the sustainability of communities.
4. Describe how to use their discipline to make communities more sustainable.\*

\* *Note:* SLO 4 is intended to be used by upper division, project-based courses such as Capstone.

GT1000 Curriculum and Learning Outcomes

**University Culture**

1. Manage the university environment in ways that support academic and personal success and involvement at Georgia Tech.
2. Develop a sense for what it means to learn at Georgia Tech and create a list of resources to support that learning process.

**Academic Success and Time Management**

1. Create a time management plan and begin the process of implementing effective time management skills.
2. Develop a personal study strategy based on strengths identified in a self-regulated learning survey.

**Communication and Relational Skills**

1. Write reflectively on topics related to college major and first year college experience.
2. Participate as an effective member of a team to produce and deliver a high-quality, professional presentation on a topic of value to the class.

**Major/Career Research**

1. Describe the required skills, daily activities, current and future state (growth potential), and salary potential of the major/career selected.

**Career Development Skills**

1. Prepare a resume applicable to internships, co-ops, study abroad programs or leadership positions (as appropriate).

**Leadership/Involvement at Tech**

1. Identify organizations and activities for possible involvement that reflect personal, academic, and career goals and interests.