WRITTEN TASK the final task: A CROSS-CULTURAL JOURNAL

Cross-cultural journal

to help in analyzing your reactions in a new culture

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1. **A.    What have you learned about Finnish lifestyle, culture, history, society, communication etc.**

Use your own *experiences* and *things that we covered in the course*. You can focus on aspect(s) that you find the most interesting. You can also compare your current knowledge to that you had before coming here. How have your feelings, ideas or thoughts about Finland changed so far? Write at least 300 words.

I think, I‘ve learned a lot about **Finnish lifestyle, culture, history, society, communication**.

**Finnish lifestyle** is quiet, strict, unemotional, and efficient; you have to accept their rules. But Finns also want to understand problems, you can talk with them and with good arguments they give in. For Example they give you a stamp “Peruutettu” on your punishment bill with 80€ for fare dogging (on their understanding). I guess while having temperament, Finns are always more curious than unreasonable. Finns are proud on their culture; they speak good English (but not everyone). Finns have real luck that the Finnish state pays subventions on their daily student meals. I guess as a Finn you can concentrate more on your own work, but on the other side you will miss some actions, who happened around you. And it’s very hard to get in contact with some Finns. You always have to invest more. If you have the luck and capture a Finn for a while he talks with you. But it seems that he is happy again when you set him free. Finns trust their state, institutions and so it’s no wonder that they have the lowest corruption on the world. So it seems that Finns are in some ways perfect. But we all know that this is more an illusion, but in compare to others they might have more luck.

In the typical **culture** Finns have their typical food and [delicac](http://dict.leo.org/ende/index_de.html#/search=delicacy&searchLoc=0&resultOrder=basic&multiwordShowSingle=on)ies. But I don’t want to write here more difficult Finnish words. Maybe just one example: Runebergintorttu or Laskiaispulla. Finns are good in architecture and design. That could be also part in society. But with a lot of Finnish famous architecture and companies in design (marimekko and ittala) it’s also part of the Finnish culture.

The **Finnish history** is young but anyway a lot happened in the most north country of the EU. After Finland rises from the sea bottom after the melting glacier and the first settlements at the south western coast the first influence was by the Swedes. With the reformation Finns got their own language by the translation of the bible into Finnish. With the influence of the Russians Finland became a bit more independent but only got their full independence after losing some areas, which they have to give to Russia after some wars. The last war was World War II.

To the Finnish **Society** there belong more than “one” people. There are Swedish Finns in the south, more in Turku and Vaasa. Everything is written in Finnish and Swedish. Not everywhere you can read English and sometimes Russian too. That makes it in everyday life in some cases difficult. For example if you want to buy your groceries.

1. **B.    You observation /description and opinion / analysis on some event you saw**

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| **Observation/ Description** | **Opinion / Analysis** |
|  As I asked after a lessons the lecturer. I haven’t finished my question, as a finn interrupts me and ask his own questions, I was shocked. After a minute I also interrupted him and asked him if he is a Finn and told him that we learned Finns let others speak out.  |  Not every Finn is a typical Finn. |