Making STAR Language Learners

By Melanie Goode Academic Director Atlantic Canada Language Academy



Warming UP

Laugh

Listen

Learn



Susie works in a shoeshine shop. Where she sits she shines, where she shines she sits.

Steps for SUCCESS

1. Know your audience

2. Understand Expectations

3. Help them Adapt



Know your **AUDIENCE**





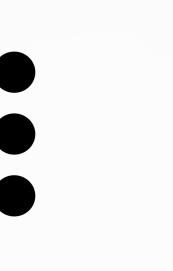




Current schedule

Know their EDUCATION

In class/online
Hours per day
Class size
Classroom style
Homework expectation







Know their CULTURE

Roles of men/women Competitiveness Routines and festivals Prejudices







Know their LANGUAGE

Pronunciation Grammar Vocabulary Concepts







This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

Know their CURRENT SCHEDULE

School/Life balance Sports/Hobbies Family schedule This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC







What do you KNOW?

Choose a student What do you know about their:

Education

Culture

Language

Current schedule



<u>This Photo</u> by Unknown Author is licensed under <u>CC BY</u>



Ask QUESTIONS

Open

Specific

Informative

What is school like in your country?
How many hours of a school a day?
How many students in a class?
How much homework did you have?
How much attention does a teacher give each student?

What do people usually do in the morning/afternoon/evening?
What are usual careers for women/men?
What careers are considered good and bad?

How or why do people get good/bad jobs?

Does your first language have this sound?
How do people say this in (their language)?
How many words for (word) do you have for this in (their language)?
How do people talk about (concept)?

What do you do outside of class time? What time do you usually go to sleep/wake up?

What does your family schedule look like?



by Unknown Author is licensed under

UNDERSTAND EXPECT ATIONS









This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

Expectations of

CANADA

Conceptions and misconceptions





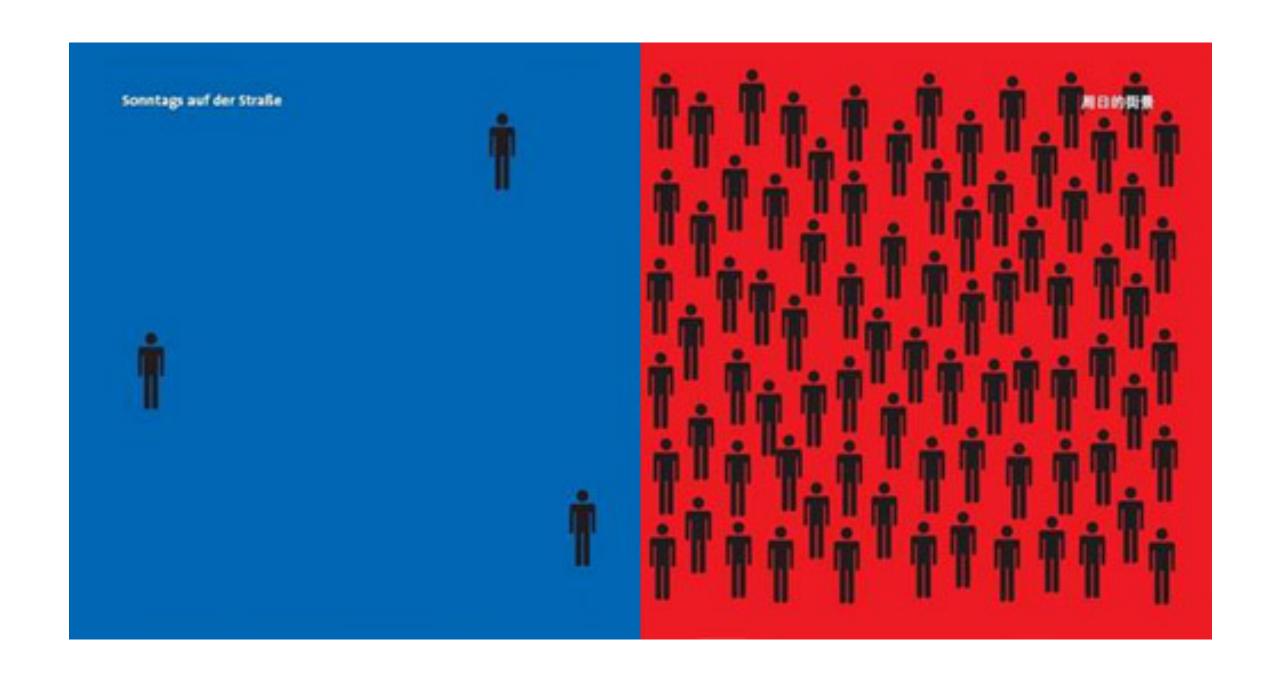


Positive feelings about it for no particular reason

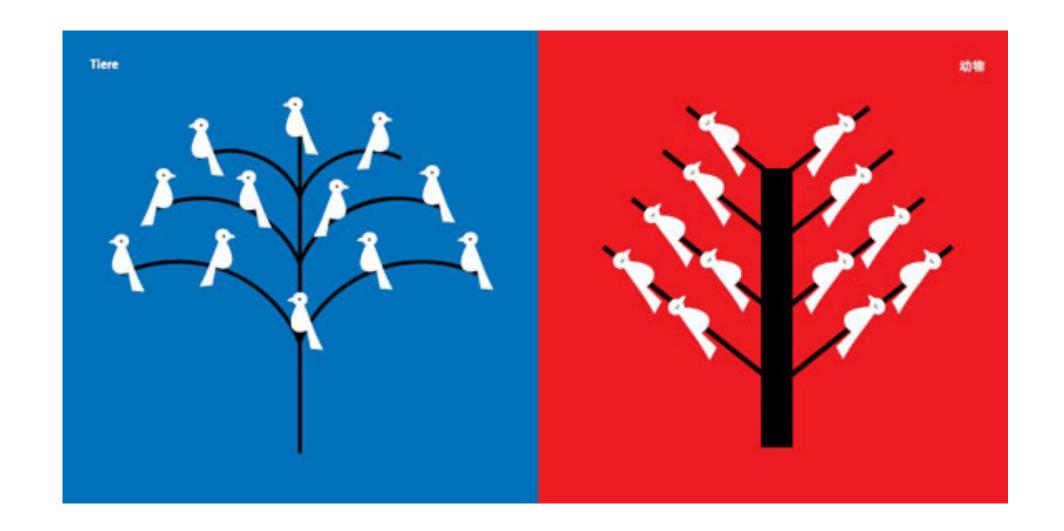
A nation of immigrants



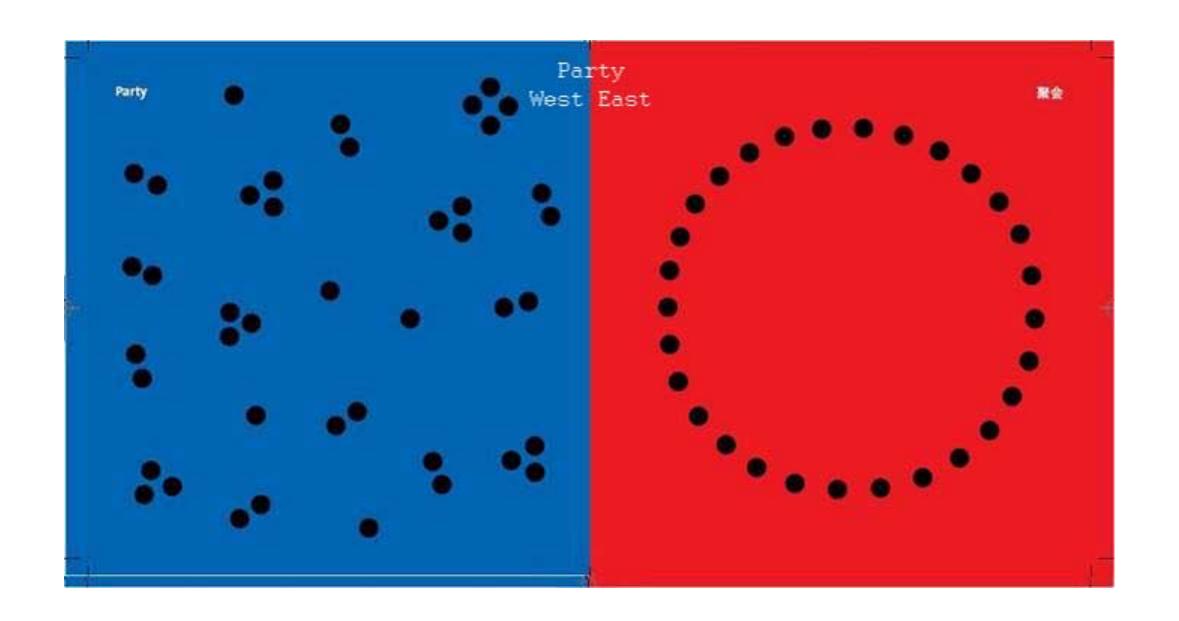
Number of people



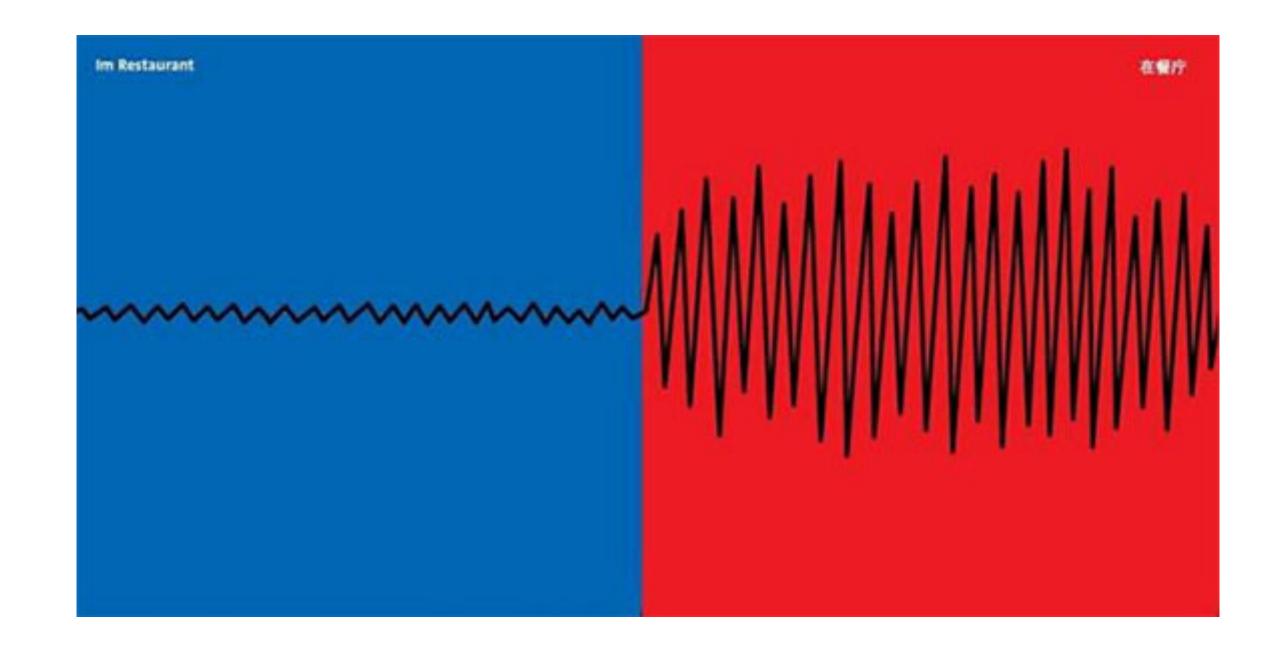
Wildlife



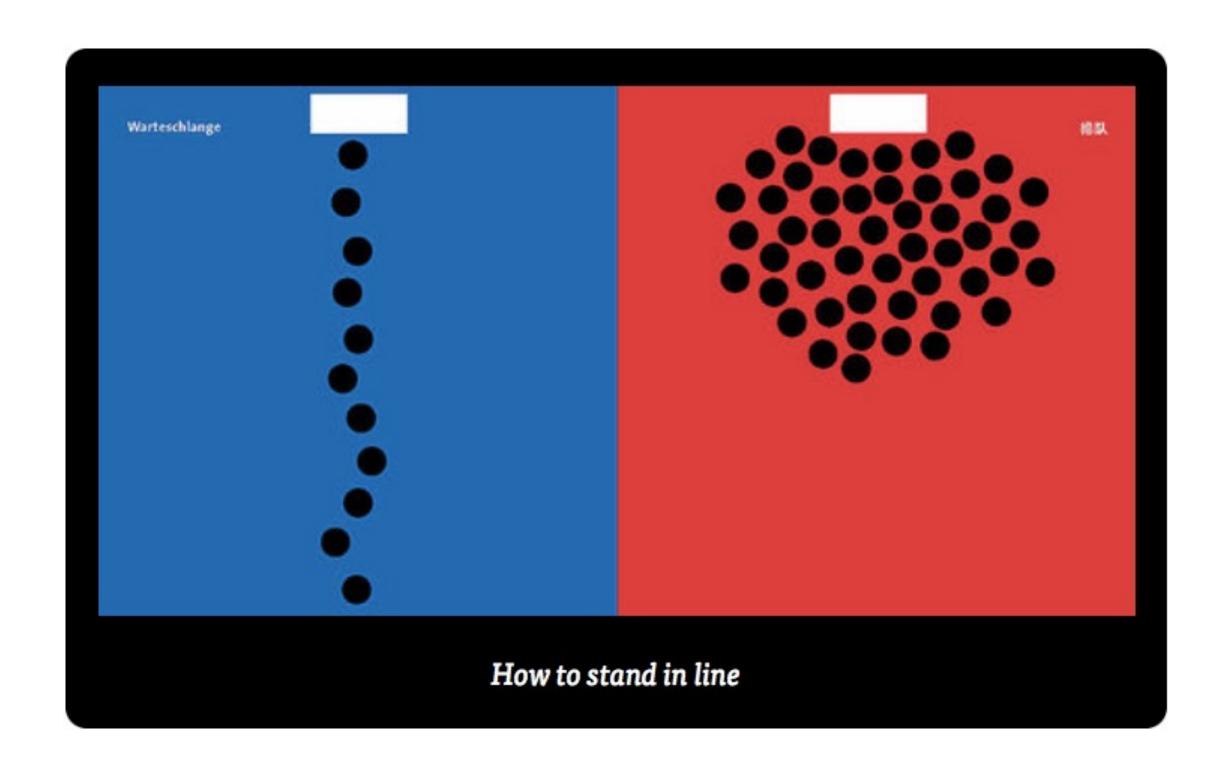
Parties



In a restaurant



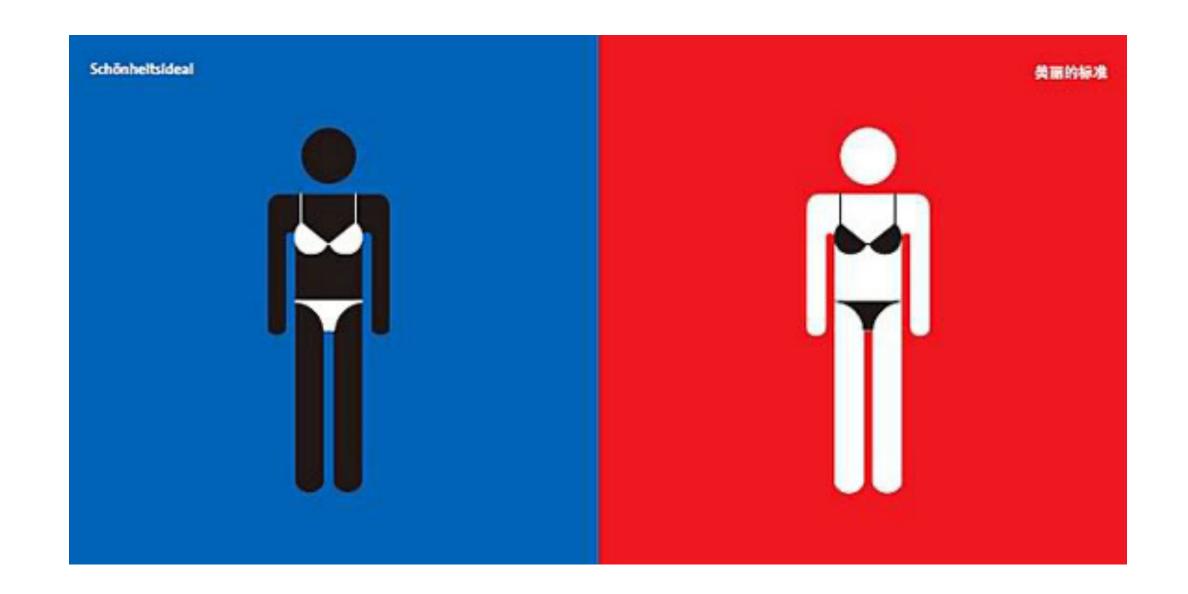
Waiting in line



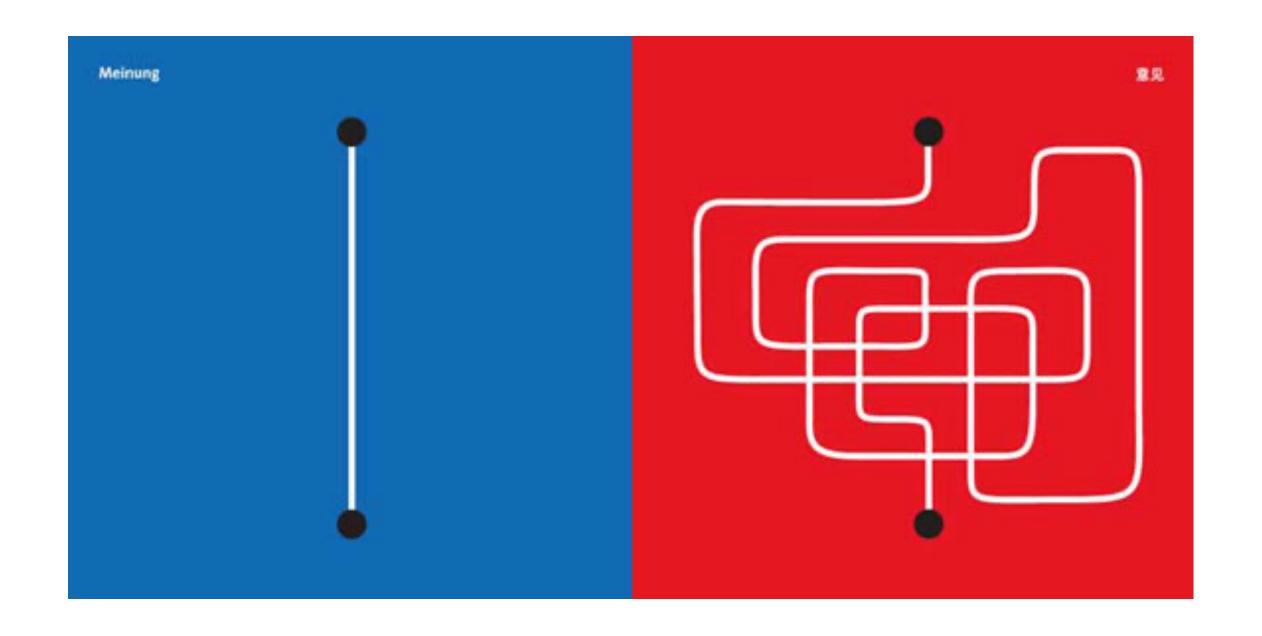
View of the Sun



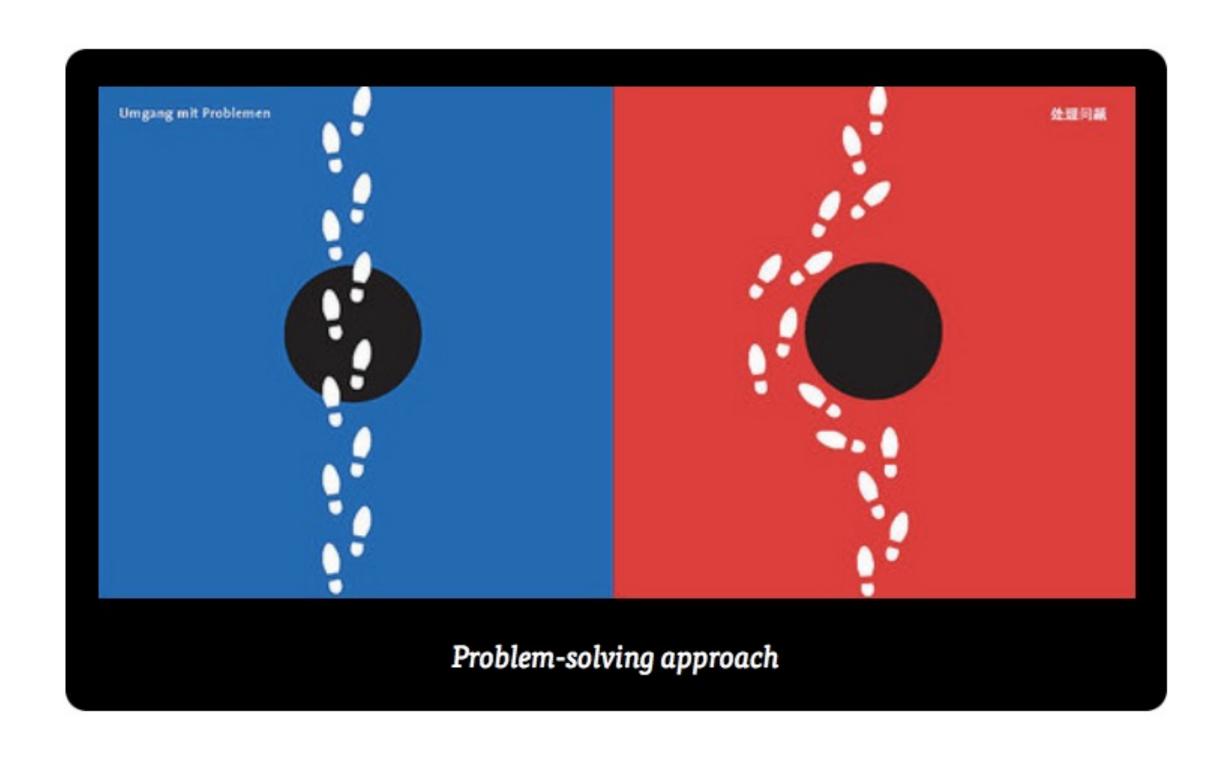
View of Beauty



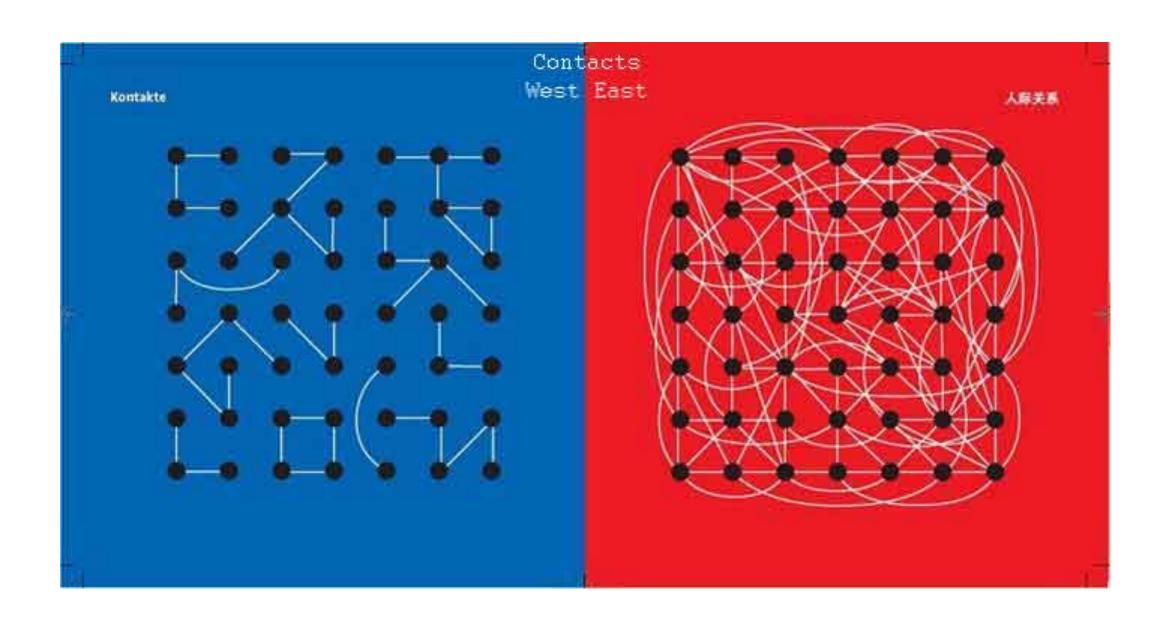
Directness of Language



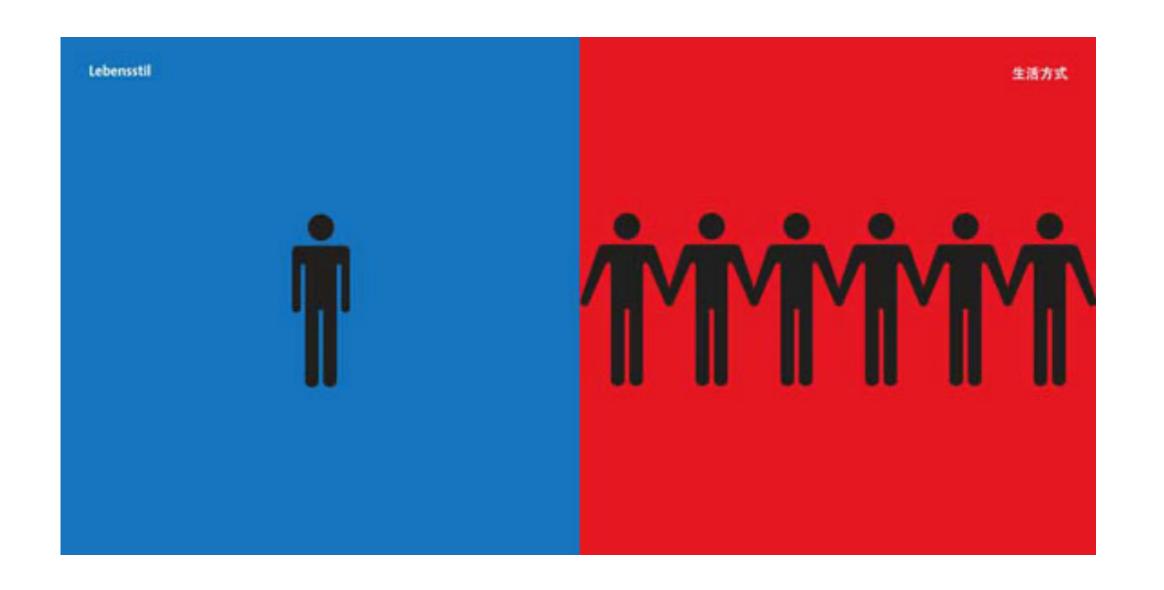
Problem Solving



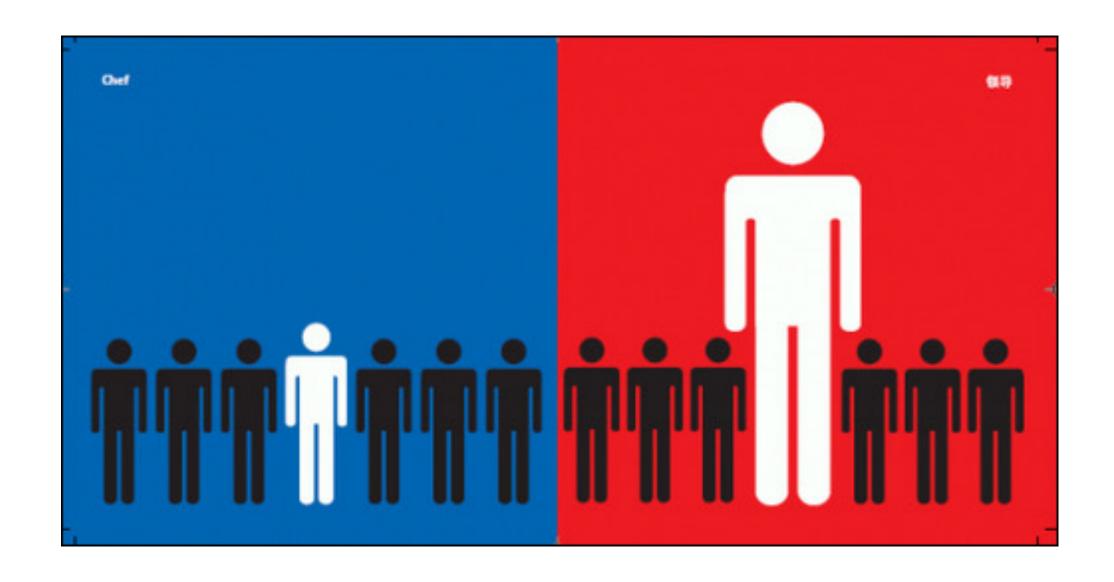
Connections between people



View of self in context



View of Leadership



EDUCATE

Be proactive

Talk about culture shock

Assume ignorance









This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC



<u>This Photo</u> by Unknown Author is licensed under <u>CC BY-NC-ND</u>

DEMONSTRATE

Role plays

Videos

TV shows

Student experiences









Expectations of TEACHERS

- Teaching style
- Class size
- Ethnicity
- Accent





"The teacher will never notice me"

"I need a white teacher"

"I want a native speaker"

EDUCATE

Be proactive

Talk about culture shock

Assume ignorance



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC



SET EXPECTATIONS

Orientations

Sample classes

Student handbook

Student mentors

Expectations of LEARNING

- Leaning experience
- Class format
- Study expectations
- International classrooms



"Why does formatting matter so much to Canadian professors?"

"There are only 10 people in my class!"

"I'll just come to class and pass."

"I don't understand people with a ____ accent."

EDUCATE

Be proactive

Talk about culture shock

Assume ignorance







This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

SUPPORT

Give space for adjustment

Set SMART goals

Regularly review and encourage







Setting their **EXPECTATIONS**

What does your institution currently do to set expectations?

What areas do you find most difficult for students with expectations vs reality?

How can you help your students manage expectations prior to arrival?

How can you help your students manage expectations during their study?



Helping Students

ADAPT



Resources

Provide RESOURCES



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA













Providing RESOURCES

What resources does your institution currently offer for immigrants/international students?

How can education about expectations be improved at your institution?

What connections does your institution provide to support the mental health, educational success and overall integration into their Canadian life?

What communities exist that learners can be connected with for ongoing support?

OVERVIEW

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE



UDERSTAND EXPECTATIONS

CYCLE OF SUCCESS



THANK YOU



melanie@studyatlantic.com