

ISSUES FORM - STUDY ABROAD REFLECTION PAPER (Instructions)

The upper-division – Issues – component of the General Education Program is designed to develop your ability to draw on previous knowledge and experience, collaborate with others, and address problems that connect to important world issues:

Information, Innovation, and Technology — including issues related to media, privacy, access, transparency, intellectual property, ethics, economics, creativity, education, politics, etc.	Health – including issues related to equity, disparities, health systems, finance, ethics, access, quality of care, safety, happiness, human development, genetics, etc.	Human Rights – including issues related to political systems, power, war, peace, violence, terrorism, wealth, poverty, privacy, religion, gender, women, children, disabilities, labor, aging incarceration, torture, etc.
Identity – including issues related to gender, sexuality, religion, culture, race, class, family, community, difference, education, technology, etc.	Globalization – including issues related to capitalism, economic justice, health, migration and immigration, communication, borders, education, etc.	Sustainability – including issues related to the environment, population, natural resources, economic development, social justice, energy, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This document, and your essay*** must be submitted to gened@qvsu.edu within 60 days of your return from studying abroad! If it is past 60 days, please contact gened@qvsu.edu.
- In the email subject line please put: Reflection – your name (for example: Reflection – Joan Smith)
- This document must be between 1-2 pages, single spaced.
- Select 1 of the 6 Issues listed above (you can pick one of the topics underneath the broader Issue, just be sure to list both the Issue and the specific topic). Reflect on the entirety of your experience abroad including your course work and out of course experiences (for example, sight-seeing, mass transportation, lodging, encounters with other people in the country, buying food, etc.).
- Once your reflection has been reviewed, you and Records will receive an email approval that will allow you to use the courses to fulfill your Issues requirement.
- Exclusions:** Independent study, independent research, and independent readings cannot be used towards the Issues requirement. Also, GVSU faculty-led program participants must take two courses abroad that are from two different disciplines, otherwise, only one course can be used to fulfill the Issues requirement.

Student Information (type or print clearly)

Your name: _____ G number: _____ Email: _____

Country where you studied: _____ Semester you studied abroad: _____

Did you participate in a GVSU faculty-led program? YES NO

If you studied at a host university overseas, please indicate the name of that institution: _____

List the 1 or 2 courses you want to use for Issues credit

Course 1 – course prefix and number as it will show on the GVSU transcript (example, BIO 338): _____

Course 2 – course prefix and number as it will show on the GVSU transcript (example, SOC 380): _____

Reflection Questions

- Select 1 of the 6 Issues noted above. List the Issue. (You can pick one of the topics underneath the broader Issue, just be sure to list both the Issue and the specific topic).
- Describe the similarities in perspectives on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.
- Describe the differences in perspectives on the problem, causes, and potential solutions to the Issue between the U.S. and the country you visited.

Courses taken abroad that are used to fulfill the Issues General Education requirement **cannot** be used to fulfill a General Education Foundations requirement. Students must choose between fulfilling the Issues requirement or fulfilling a Foundations requirement.