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Reporting Questions

### **Question Set #1**

**1. What are your initial impressions of the organization and an overview and thoughts about the kind of work you've started doing; how does the work match your expectations, how does it match your goals?**

My initial impressions of the organization were I could feel a lot of professionalism and formality in the company culture and that even made me feel too uncomfortable at times because I'm not used to working at such place. However, I was able to get used to the environment and learn more about my coworkers outside of work which made me feel more comfortable. The work that I've started doing has a good combination of office + classroom work. I get to learn the skills I need in the classroom but also many other sides of education that I haven't get a chance to learn before. I've had good conversations with my close supervisor where I learned valuable things.

**2. What stood out to you the most regarding your arrival?**

I didn't expect to experience any culture shock, depression or homesickness this time since I just came back to Vietnam a few months ago. However, many elements have changed from the last time I came and I was hit with unexpected feelings.

**3. What was your greatest anxiety prior to departing and how do you feel about that now that you have arrived?**

My greatest anxiety prior to departing was whether or not I will be able to adjust to the working environment. I did feel out of place when I first arrived but about 5 days later I was able to feel more comfortable.

### **Question Set #2**

**1. How are things going at work now that you have settled in for a bit? How does this align with your professional goals that you set for yourself? What would you like to achieve in the remainder of your internship?**

As I'm settling in, I also get more comfortable with the working environment and the people at work. As I feel more comfortable, I can open myself more and feel less stressed. This leaves me more space to focus on professional development. This is also my first time working in such a professional and formal environment and it has helped me build more confidence and experience. What I would like to achieve in the remainder of my internship is more in-depth skills in the field.

**2. How are things going relative to your personal goals? In which areas have you made progress and where do you still have some room to expand? What do you want to make sure you address before you leave?**

Personally, I feel more confident in myself as I go through the process of making my own decisions without feeling unsure. I also learn to ask questions when and where necessary without feeling hesitated. I want to continue learning more about the work ethics and manners at the work place.

**3. How are things going relative to your cross-cultural goals? What kinds of experiences have stood out to you so far? What do you want to ensure to experience before you leave?**

Being able to work in an American-Vietnamese environment has enriched my cross-cultural goals. I could see a diverse and flexible working environment where both cultures are represented equally. I want to continue interacting with my coworkers to see more of the company diverse culture.

**Question Set #3**

**1. Describe a day in your life – what is your work schedule like, what do you do after work, how do you balance your time between work and exploring life outside of work?**

Because E2 is an after school enrichment center, classes take place in late afternoon and evening. Therefore, employees are not required to come in early in the morning. I would come to work around 10:30 for team meetings or all hands assembly on certain days of the week. Then it will be lunch or more working then lunch. I almost always go out to lunch with my coworkers, either with people from my curriculum team, English team, or even with Math team or Admin team. I try to keep myself open to other departments and personalities in the company as well. After coming back from lunch, I would be getting ready to leave to other centers or campus for classes. After work, I still have time exploring and hanging out with my family or friends. On some occasions we would have team parties and team bonding events as well.

**2. Housing: What is your living situation like? Knowing what you know now, are there other options you would have chosen instead? If you can provide some resources for future interns, that would be most helpful.**

I stay with my father's family and I was content with the living situation. My suggestion for future interns would be staying in a neighborhood where you could get access to both local culture and international/your home culture if possible. The reason is because it will help with your transition, as well as when you feel home sick. You won't feel too overwhelmed by the host culture all at once.

**3. Finances: How is your budget working out for you? Are you spending more or less than what you expected? How much do you typically spend on food, recreation, travel, etc? What would you do differently knowing what you know now?**

I've been spending more on certain things but less on others. It's good to have one compensate for the other. Overestimating my spending works better for me. And budgeting by each month/week also helps me better.

**4. Travel and Transportation: How do you typically get around town and to work? Are you satisfied with that choice? Would you recommend other options? Do you have time to explore the surrounding area on time off? How do you manage that? What do you recommend for travel options? Where do you recommend exploring?**

My dad takes me to work in the morning and I use Uber+Grabcar a lot. I also walk when I can. If you feel confident and stay here long enough, I've seen many Americans at my company riding the motorbikes. This would be less expensive (taking the bus is still cheaper however), faster, more convenient and you could explore the city more in your own time. However, it is somewhat overwhelming and risky for some people.

I have time to explore in the weekend as well as in the evenings after work. My company also gives a good amount of time for Christmas + Tet holiday break. I traveled in the country as well as to other Asian countries during these times. Traveling in Asia is cheaper than in most other parts of the world. Backpacking options are always available if you're traveling on a budget. And since you're already in Asia, please save up some money and try to explore the area. It will be really worth it. I promise.

#### **Question Set #4**

##### **1. How well did your coursework prepare you for your internship? What knowledge of your field has been most important so far?**

I want to say my coursework made up 30-40% of what I'm applying for my internship. The rest of the experience came from my time volunteering and working at other education-related jobs. What I learned from education and educational psychology have been most important so far.

##### **2. Have you learned about any new possibilities for career paths? Have you done any informational interviews (formal or informal) to learn about the field?**

I want to look into other careers in education field such as administration, curriculum designing and not just teaching. I haven't done any informational interviews but I've acquired the knowledge from my direct supervisor who is doing administration and curriculum design.

##### **3. Describe an event where you misunderstood something due to cultural differences. What did you do? What would you do next time?**

I misjudged student levels and had expectations that were too high for them. Even though they were at the same grade levels like in the states, they are still developing and learning English as a second language. I went back and adjusted my strategies as well as lesson plans.

##### **4. What is the most frustrating aspect of your host culture? What is the most rewarding aspect?**

I come from a Vietnamese background so I didn't have too much trouble. The most rewarding aspect that I really appreciate is the blending of US and Vietnamese culture at my workplace. This has created a warm yet flexible and challenging environment.

##### **5. What are the most important things you have learned about yourself thus far through this experience?**

I learned that I am dedicated and motivated when I have a goal to reach forward. Throughout my internship, I feel the need to keep setting one after another dynamic goal for myself so I can strive. I also want to give myself the chance to explore other opportunities as well and not just focusing too much on one aspect and losing the others.

### **Question Set #5**

**1. Now is the time to begin thinking about how to articulate all your experiences you have been gaining for your next endeavors (job search, graduate school applications, etc). Identify 3-4 accomplishments or successes in your internship of which you are most proud. These can be professional, personal or cross-cultural. Explain them briefly below.**

- I got promoted to a higher position with a small pay raise
- My performance in the classroom got improved according to a teacher's feedback
- I expanded my network and knowledge in the field

**2. After identifying 3-4, pick two of these and expand on them with the following:**

- Outline the context of the situation: I was given the opportunity to facilitate the guided reading station for a class. The first time I did it, there were many feedbacks on how I could improve the session better. I myself thought my performance didn't meet my expectations at some points.
- Describe the actions you took to overcome the challenges: I looked back at the feedback I received multiple times and asked follow-up questions. The next time when I was given another opportunity to facilitate guided reading, the teacher said I improved most of my weaknesses.

**3. Describe the workplace culture at your host organization. How does your personal cultural lens work within the culture of your host organization?**

As I mentioned earlier, my host organization has a blend of two cultures in which I'm most influenced by. It was the perfect place for me to be at because I identify myself with a combination of both cultures. It was a balance of both and not too much of one or the other.

**4. What words of advice do you have for future interns as they prepare for this internship and living in your host country/culture?**

Learn as much as you can about the group of people that you will be working with. At E2, there are many different departments and I tried to open myself up and get to know people from other than my department. It helps me expand my network.

Make yourself available for off-site work trips and outing opportunities. This way you can learn more about your co-workers outside of work and make meaningful cross-cultural experiences.

### **Question Set #6**

**1. Looking back at your pre-departure journal or notes, how have your impressions of the host culture changed?**

At first, I thought my values wouldn't fit with the company culture. However, after two weeks at work, I started to see many values that align with mine. It's also the people who I've met here creating a sense of belonging to me.

**2. What were your greatest challenges and rewards on this internship in each of your three development areas?**

- Personal: overcome my lack of confidence and negative feelings/thoughts in certain areas
- Professional: open myself to new opportunities and knowledge, expand my network
- Cross-Cultural: find a place where I feel a better sense of belonging with values and culture align with my own

I can't write so much about my recommendation on traveling all at once. Therefore, if anyone (including future interns) have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [tpham9869@gmail.com](mailto:tpham9869@gmail.com)