

# Time Exercise

Within cultures and between cultures there are different sayings about time. Sayings can reflect one's orientation towards time.

1. Individually, review these sayings, and select three (3) that most reflect your orientation towards time. Next, consider which of these sayings reflect the orientation of your work environment, and your culture.
2. Form into groups (3-5) to share and compare responses.

## Timely Thoughts:

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Time is up  
Time is money  
Watch the clock  
You're wasting time  
Time is limited  
You're out of time  
Time is a river  
Timelessness  
You have all the time in the world  
Take your time  
Time heals all wounds'  
Timing is everything  
Time is on my side  
There's always tomorrow  
The clock stood still

## Sayings about time:

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Respect other people's time  
Budget your time  
Have a good time  
Time is life  
Your time will come  
Be on time  
Don't waste your time  
The time of your life  
Find the time  
Running out of time  
Make the most of your time  
Good timing  
Killing time  
Take control of your time  
In the nick of time

- a. Is there a difference between you personally, your work, and your culture?
- b. Does your pace serve you well (or serve your office well?)
- c. Does your pace change in different parts of your life (work, home, etc.)?
- d. What would it feel like to change your pace in one of these aspects of your life? How might that affect you, your business, your relationship to others?

Summarized by Susan Bender, Director, Office of International Students & Scholars, University of Nevada, Reno, May 2008, for the NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference, May 2008. Sources include the following:

"Time Values," in *52 Activities for Exploring Values Differences*, Stringer, Donner and Patricia Cassiday, (2003), Yarmouth, Maine: Intercultural Press, pp. 9-11.

Lambert, Jonamay, Selma Myers, and George Simons (eds.), (2000). *Global Competence: 50 Training Activities for Succeeding in International Business*. Amherst, MA: Human Development Press, pp. 141-150.