



## Why We Do the Things We Do! A Word from Tamara:

This summer I was fortunate enough to return to Paris with my husband Tracy. We arrived early on an August morning, almost 20 years to the date of my first trip to France in 1988 for my semester abroad. Stepping off the train, I could begin to feel the magic, and quietly hoped Tracy would feel it too. And he did, but more importantly, I did. In a rush of excitement, it all came back to me; my French, navigating the metro, being comfortable on a crowded bus and finding the perfect café crème. Filled with joy, I spent the next few days running around Paris to be sure we did not miss a single nook or cranny. It was amazing to experience feeling so at home, when I was so far from it. It was like I had a slid into a new skin that fit perfectly.

I was reminded why I do the things I do! Traveling and living abroad is not for everyone. And even for those who do enjoy it has its challenges. When faced with the ambiguity and confusion of a different culture I find great strength, excitement and confidence. I am so grateful that the work that I do is grounded in my strengths and passion. This summer was an unexpected reminder that I have found my place in the world. I do not know why you do the things you do, but perhaps, just perhaps, you have found your place in this world.



## Coming Back! Re-adjusting to Life at Home

Just come back from a program abroad? This can be a challenging and confusing time for some. The immediate comforts of home are soon replaced with disappointment and frustration. Your friends and family are not as interested as you would like. Your new insights, experiences and stories, and enthusiasm seem unappreciated. Have you begun to feel like you do not belong or fit in? Do not panic! Re-entry adjustment is the final phase of your intercultural experience. Whether you were studying or volunteering abroad or backpacking through the Pyrenees, this is a common and necessary stage. Home seems to be exactly the same but you are not.

Going abroad can be life-changing so the challenge coming home is being the new you in the same old place. Here are some tips to help with your re-entry adjustment:

- Share your stories with others who have been abroad.
- Consider the impact of your experience on your academic and professional goals.
- Stay connected with the friends, contacts and organizations from abroad. Create a Facebook group where you can share pictures and keep in touch.

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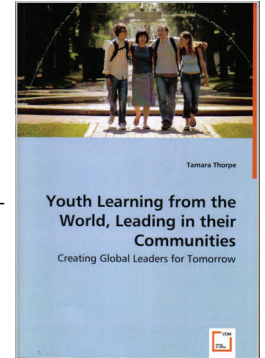
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# Empowering Your Students to Lead

Today educators have the added task of ensuring students are prepared to lead. As an educator, are you juggling between teaching course content and character? A growing approach for educators in your position is service learning. The Canadian Alliance for Community Service Learning defines service learning as "an educational approach that integrates service in the community with intentional learning activities... both educational institutions and community organizations work together toward outcomes that are mutually beneficial (2008)." It can be an alternate method for civic engagement, global citizenship and leadership development. The benefits for students include:

- Increased self-esteem
- Sense of empowerment
- Improved citizenship
- Increased desire to learn
- Greater connection to their community
- Practical experience in leadership, critical thinking and reflection



Colleges and universities in British Columbia have integrated service learning into their interdisciplinary curriculum. Last winter, Camosun College International hosted a three-day conference, *Service Learning in International Development: Learning that Gives*, as part of their commitment to leadership and service. Service learning not only promotes social responsibility but it also opens the door for advanced learning, leadership development, and an increased awareness of self and others.

If you want to know more about integrating service learning into your curriculum, TNT has developed a resource guide for educators and youth workers, "Best Practices in Service Learning" available at [www.tntdevelopment.org/community](http://www.tntdevelopment.org/community) or read *Youth Learning from the World, Leading in their Communities: Creating Global Leaders for Tomorrow* by Tamara Thorpe newly published by VDM Publishing, now available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

For students in Victoria, the Community Mural Project is a fantastic "ready-made" service learning opportunity. To learn more visit [www.tntdevelopment.org/community](http://www.tntdevelopment.org/community) and to get involved call (250)514-8756.



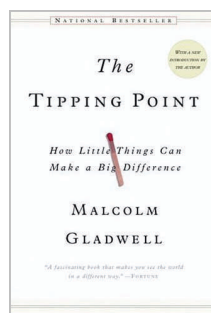
## Read and Learn

I love to read, but there are so many books. How do you choose just one? In each newsletter, I will share something I have read to make it a bit easier. Send me your favorites.

Title: *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*

Author: Malcom Gladwell

Comments: This book provides inspiration and hope for all of those who are working towards change. It offers insight into how one person can create change. *The Tipping Point* is an extremely valuable resource for anyone leading a team or social change initiative. Seize the opportunity to make a difference.



## Share and Grow

Your ideas, success stories, challenges and questions are welcome. The *Share and Grow* section is a place to learn from one another, find solutions and get answers to your burning questions. Contact me via email at [tamara@tntdevelopment.org](mailto:tamara@tntdevelopment.org) and see your idea, story or answer in the next TNT newsletter.

## Quotes of Inspiration

*We are all unique, and if that is not fulfilled, then something wonderful has been lost.*  
–Martha Graham

*Whatever you are, be a good one.*  
–Abraham Lincoln

# Tools of the Trade: *The World Café, A Fresh and Creative Approach to Evaluation*

Are you tired of the same old surveys and questionnaires? The World Café is an exciting interactive process based upon the premise that human connection and conversation happens in small groups and in familiar and comforting settings. It would be great to have the time to grab a cup of Joe at the local coffee shop with our staff or students, but it just is not always possible. The World Café process simulates the "coffee shop" atmosphere to foster authentic dialogues in a collective experience. This process can be an effective tool to:

- Have authentic conversation
- Generate input or feedback
- Share knowledge
- Explore action possibilities for real life issues

I have successfully used The World Café with students of all ages to set program learning goals, outline decisive action on important social issues, and gather feedback on curriculum. It is an opportunity for everyone, especially youth and young adults, to be creative and real.

*Step 1:* Set the stage by re-arranging your space, class room or meeting room so people can sit at tables in small groups. Have fun, bring table clothes, flowers, candles, candy, coffee or tea; anything to create a comfortable space. Then cover the tables with newsprint or flipchart paper for note taking.

*Step 2:* At each table there is a question or issue for discussion. These discussions take place in rounds, so at the end of each round everyone moves to a new table with a new question. Participants move randomly so each group is different than the previous group.

Each table has a host that remains at their designated table for the entire World Café. Their role is to facilitate the conversation, and to help each new group build on the conversation from the former. Both participants and host take notes, which can be words, pictures, graphs, or quotes.

*Step 3:* After everyone has had a round at each table, the group collaborates to identify patterns, insights, or new questions.

*Step 4:* Share these collective discoveries in a formally in the form of list, new goals or strategies, a newsletter, there are no limits.

The World Café is designed around seven guiding principles:

- Set the Context: Purpose, participants, parameters
- Create a Hospitable Space
- Explore Questions That Matter
- Encourage Everyone's Contribution
- Cross-pollinate and Connect Diverse
- Listen Together for Patterns, Insights and Deeper Questions
- Harvest and Share Collective Discoveries



Learn more about The World Café process and principles in *The World Café: Shaping Our Futures Through Conversations That Matter* by Juanita Brown with David Isaacs and the World Café Community or visit [www.theworldcafe.com](http://www.theworldcafe.com).





## Upcoming Events

- The Noontime Speakers Series hosted by The South Island Dispute Resolution Centre (SIDRC) will feature Tamara Thorpe speaking on the topic of "Communicating Across Cultures". A \$5 donation to the SIDRC is requested.

Date: October 23, 2008

Time: Noon

Location: Military Family Resource Centre, 2610 Rosebank Road

For more information visit [www.disputeresolution.bc.ca](http://www.disputeresolution.bc.ca)

- CISV Victoria's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Exhibit as part of International Education Awareness Week, Friday, November 21. For more information visit [www.cisvictoria.ca](http://www.cisvictoria.ca) or call Tamara at (250)514-8756. To learn more about CISV programs visit [www.cisv.org](http://www.cisv.org).

- New Research using the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) ©, "Measuring Intercultural Sensitivity in International Service Learning" conducted by TNT. The final report will be available on the website in January 2009.

## Coming Back! Re-adjusting to Life at Home

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- Continue to use the language or special skills you learned while away.
- Get involved with organizations, clubs or groups locally that need your new skills.
- Reflect on the impact of your experience on your own cultural identity; how you have changed; explore your new worldview and values through journaling, a diary or blog.

(Resource: Handbook of Intercultural Training by Landis, Bennett, et al)

Any combination should offer relief. Be patient with those around you, they were not as fortunate as you to travel.

If this adjustment period drags on, intercultural coaching is an option. Tharani, a UVIC Student, returned from Ethiopia feeling both "inspired and discouraged" and received coaching from TNT. She said, "Coaching with Tamara was immediately positive; it was reassuring to know that my conflicted emotions were not irrational. Discussing my global experiences with Tamara enabled me to apply the skills I gained in Ethiopia to work and interactions in Canada."

For more about coaching visit [www.tntdevelopment.org/coaching](http://www.tntdevelopment.org/coaching)

### TNT Intercultural and Leadership Development

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### TNT Intercultural and Leadership Development

Advancing youth, educators and organizational leaders in their intercultural and leadership competencies. TNT prepares individuals and teams to manage cultural differences and lead today's diverse communities and organizations.

#### Mission

Empowering others to learn and lead across cultures to foster peaceful and socially responsible communities around the world.