

***DukeWrites* Enrichment Suite**

Intercultural norms, part two

With Rene Caputo, Duke ESL Specialist

You might also hear idiomatic or metaphoric language as a student. Off the top of my head. Perhaps you ask me, “Rene, what’s the population of North Carolina?”

And I say, “Hmm, I don’t really know. But off the top of my head, it’s about this many thousand.” That’s how we use that. Someone is guessing.

Looking through the lens of. Perhaps someone might say, “Looking through the lens of a Duke international student, what do you think about this?” It’s as if you’re putting on the eyeglasses of a Duke international student.

In this case, that’s easy for you. In another case, they might put something after that that you have to kind of pretend and imagine. Hmmm, how would that look?

And very normal, especially in a writing class: What’s your take on this reading? This means what do you think, what’s your opinion.

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