

VISITING PLACES OF WORSHIP USING THE P.L.A.C.E.S. APPROACH



P = PLAN

Send a quick email or make a quick phone call to schedule a visit outside of worship times. Find out about any clothing requirements and whether photos are allowed.

L = LISTEN

People are proud of their places of worship and often deeply invested in their religious tradition.



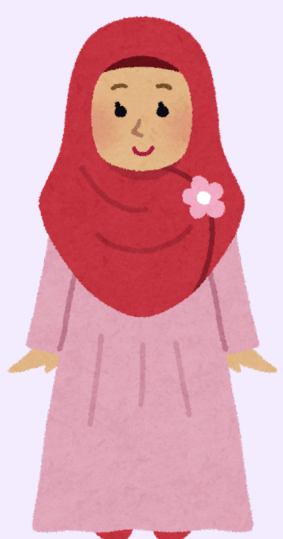
A = ASK

Before your visit, peruse their website and note any questions that arise for you. Once there, as you're listening, think about what seems striking, interesting, or unusual. Then, ask away...with as little judgment as possible.



Try to simply listen to what they say. Attempt to see the space from their point of view. If something doesn't sit quite right with you, take a deep breath and remain appreciative of their time and this opportunity.

C = CLARIFY



If you've heard something negative about the place of worship or the religious tradition, this is the time to get clarification. People are generally quite aware of how their religious practices are portrayed in the media as well as what current events are happening around the globe. Even if the conversation doesn't alleviate all your concerns, at least it's a start.



E = ENJOY!



Remember...you are visiting a new place **and** meeting someone new! Keep in mind they don't know you either. Enjoy this opportunity to have an interesting experience, to expand your knowledge base, and to deepen your community connections!

S = SUMMARIZE

Jot down a few notes as soon as you can. What were the most interesting, surprising, or confusing things you encountered? How does this place of worship compare to others you've visited or are familiar with? How might you share your visit with students?

