

Bringing It Home: Designing Re-Entry for STEM Education Abroad Programs

HANDOUT 6 — Innovation Opportunity Discovery Guide

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PURPOSE

Day 1 helped you move from experience - evidence - examination - professional learning - emerging opportunity. In this session, you will revisit an opportunity identified on Day 1 and use the Opportunity Recognition Framework to examine where and how it might create value. The goal is to clarify and prioritize an opportunity before developing a solution or entrepreneurial pathway.

PART I. BRING FORWARD YOUR DAY 1 OPPORTUNITY

Return to the priority opportunity or question you identified at the end of Day 1.

- Our priority opportunity/question was:
- What community knowledge, asset, or contextual insight led us to this opportunity?

PART II. APPLY THE OPPORTUNITY RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

1. Community Challenge

What challenge or situation creates the context for this opportunity?

2. Community Knowledge

What existing knowledge, expertise, practice, resources, or community assets are relevant?

3. Unmet Need

What need, gap, constraint, or possibility remains?



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4. Value Creation

Who could benefit if this opportunity were explored?

What type of value could potentially be created?

- ☐ Educational
- ☐ Workforce
- ☐ Community/social
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Technological
- ☐ Economic
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Entrepreneurial
- ☐ Policy/public service
- ☐ Other _____

5. Opportunity

Complete the statement:

An opportunity exists to _____
for/with _____
by building on _____.

PART III. CONNECT THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEM WORKFORCE CONTEXTS

Consider where this opportunity might have relevance beyond the immediate case.

Which workforce sector, industry, or emerging STEM field could benefit from this opportunity?

What knowledge or competencies from the global experience could contribute?

- ☐ Problem solving
- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Teamwork/collaboration
- ☐ Adaptability
- ☐ Leadership/initiative
- ☐ Creativity/innovation
- ☐ Intercultural competence
- ☐ Disciplinary/technical knowledge

- ☐ Resourcefulness
- ☐ Stakeholder engagement
- ☐ Decision making under uncertainty
- ☐ Ethical decision making
- ☐ Opportunity recognition
- ☐ Entrepreneurial thinking
- ☐ Other _____

Why might this opportunity matter in that workforce or professional context?

PART IV. COMMUNITY VALUE MAP

Breakout-Room Activity

Compare your analyses and develop one Community Value Map for your group's opportunity.

Dimension	Group Insight
Community Challenge	
Community Knowledge and Assets	
Unmet Need / Possibility	
Who Could Benefit?	
Potential Value	
Relevant STEM/Workforce Context	
Knowledge/Competencies Contributing	

Community-Centered Check

Whose knowledge and priorities inform this opportunity?

How does the opportunity build upon, rather than replace existing community knowledge and assets?

PART V. PRIORITIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Use the questions below to determine whether the opportunity is worth developing further.

Question	Yes / Somewhat / Not Yet
Is there a clearly identifiable need or possibility?	
Does the opportunity build on community knowledge or assets?	

Is there potential to create meaningful value?	
Is there a connection to STEM knowledge or competencies?	
Could the opportunity contribute to a workforce, community, research, technological, educational, or entrepreneurial context?	

What makes this opportunity worth exploring further?

What do we still need to understand?

Keep the focus on the opportunity, not the solution. Session 7 will explore possible pathways for responding to the opportunity through entrepreneurial thinking.

PART VI. PRIORITIZED INNOVATION OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Bring your analysis together in one concise statement.

Our Opportunity Statement

Based on _____
(community challenge/context)
 and building on _____
(community knowledge/assets)
 we identified an unmet need or possibility to _____
 that could create value for _____
 within/in connection with _____.
(community, workforce, industry, research, educational, or another context)

PART VII. PLENARY SYNTHESIS

Post two items from your group in the shared workspace:

1. Our Prioritized Innovation Opportunity Statement
2. The most important form of value this opportunity could create.

SESSION 6 DELIVERABLES

1. **Community Value Map.** A synthesis connecting: Community Challenge - Community Knowledge and Assets - Unmet Need - Beneficiaries - Potential Value - STEM/Workforce Context
2. **Prioritized Innovation Opportunity Statement.** A concise statement identifying an opportunity grounded in community knowledge and context, the unmet need or possibility, who could benefit, and the value that could potentially be created.