

**Student #2****Critical Reflection Bennett, M. J.**

Sept. 14, 2022

**Unity in Diversity**

Bennett, M.J. (2013) explains how the Golden Rule is used as a guide of proper conduct in our relationships with others. The Golden Rule states that we should treat others as we want to be treated. This leaves out the reality that we are not all equal, and that other people may not like how we like to be treated. Bennett invites us to evolve from this way of thinking to improve communication to a form that is more inclusive of “culture, ethnic group, socioeconomic status, age, gender, sexual background, and profession” (p.192) to name a few. He states that sympathy comes from the Golden Rule principle where we try to understand others but from our perspective. This point of view might be right when people that we interact with are like us, but it is totally indifferent to diversity. A more inclusive interactive approach is Empathy. In empathy, we participate in another person's way of thinking and feeling. In order to develop empathy, we have to acknowledge the diversity, be aware of our differences, and be able to experience the other person’s understanding. Empathy is the ideal way of interacting with others. It is probably very hard to achieve when we have ethnocentric points of view and we believe that we are the owners of the truth, a position very easy to fall into. We need to stand in a more humble position in order to be able to empathize with others.

**Reference**

Bennett, M.J. (2013). *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication: Paradigms, Principles, and Practices* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 191-213). Intercultural Press a Nicholas Brealey Publishing Company.