



Skill 27: Celebrating Diversity / Cultural Awareness

Activity A: Everyone Has a Culture

Activity Skills:

Group discussion, writing, brainstorming, critical thinking.

Leadership Skills:

Recognizing cultural differences and similarities.

Suggested Level:

Beginning

Time:

45 Minutes

Supplies needed:

- Large writing area (to be displayed to the entire group)
- Pens and pencils to write

Do Ahead:

- Make copies of worksheet

Source:

Developed By:
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Based On:

World Wise Schools Educators
<http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/guides/looking/lesson11.html>

BACKGROUND:

Culture can be defined as the beliefs, customs, practices, and social behavior of a particular group of people. In this activity participants will explore their own culture and learn about some one else's culture.

The key objectives for this lesson are to recognize that:

Even members of the same "groups" have very different backgrounds.

Often members of different "groups" have more similar backgrounds than they realize.

Some differences among people stem from culture and that some stem from personal traits and preferences.

WHAT TO DO:

Write the following statements so that everyone can read them.

- No one is exactly like me.
- I have many things in common with the members of my family and community.
- Every person in the world needs some of the same things I need.

Ask participants to share ideas that support these statements.

Divide into work groups of about 5-10 people. Allow each group 10 minutes to brainstorm two lists:

- First create a list of commonalities, things everyone in the group has in common. If there is even one person in the group that does not meet that commonality it can NOT be included on the list.
- Next create a list of differences or traits that are unique to only one person in the group.

Ask participants to complete the worksheet in order to help them identify aspects of their own cultures. Allow 10 minutes to answer each question with one sentence or phrase and then rank each item in order of importance.

After completing the worksheets allow 10-15 minutes for participants to share the information from the handout in small groups. Ask the groups to compare and contrast various aspects of their individual cultures.

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<p>Notes:</p>	<p>TALK IT OVER:</p> <p>Reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What similarities did you notice between your culture and someone else's? What differences did you notice?• What is culture?• Does culture explain why other people sometimes seem "different"? <p>Apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can you do to learn about and understand other cultures?• How can we use what we learned about each other to improve your community? <p>BEYOND THE BOX:</p> <p>Optional Homework:</p> <p>Organize a "potluck" meal. Invite everyone to bring a dish that is a part of their own unique culture.</p> <p>Resources and Web Links:</p> <p>EdChange Multicultural Pavilion Online, <i>Multicultural Awareness Quiz</i>, http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/quizzes.html</p> <p><i>The Light in Their Eyes: Creating Multicultural Learning Communities</i> by Sonia Nieto</p> <p><i>Readings for Diversity and Social Justice</i> by Ximena Zuniga</p> <p><i>Sociology: Diversity, Conflict And Change(Illustrated)</i> by Kenneth J. Neubeck and Davita Silfen Glasberg\</p> <p><i>World Wise Schools Educators</i>, http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/guides/looking/lesson11.html</p>
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