

Cultural Memoir Assignment

Assignment Rationale

Interpersonal communication research David Johnson once said, “Self-awareness is the key to self-knowledge, self-understanding, and self-disclosure.” Although our self is psychological, we operate in a social world. Being aware of who we are helps us understand ourselves and our perception of others around us. For a review of this information, please reference your textbook.

This assignment gives you the opportunity to examine deeply the development of your own identity and how various institutions of influence shape your interaction with others and the world around you.

Assignment Components

Students will write a two to three-page reflection focusing on their cultural background (language, race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic, personal experiences, etc.) and how these factors impact their interaction with the world. Students will also create or bring an artifact that represents a significant aspect of their cultural background and expresses their personal connection to the most prevalent factors/experience that influence their interpretation of the world.

When writing your paper, consider the following:

- What makes up your self-concept?
- What are your attitudes, beliefs, and values?
- How does your culture impact your verbal and nonverbal communication with others?
- How does your avowed identity differ from your ascribed identity?
- What groups are you apart of? How does this impact your identity?

References

Beebe, S. A., Beebe, S. J., & Ivy, D. K. (2009). *Communication: Principles for a Lifetime* (5th ed.) Boston: Pearson.

Crim, C. (n.d.). *Self-Exploration → Experiences = Culturally Competent Change* [Scholarly project]. Retrieved June 20, 2018.

Grading Rubric

Directions: Please provide at least a two to three-page reflection focusing on your cultural background. Remember to be creative and detailed when describing events or interactions. Your answer must be typed and double spaced. The paper is worth 25 points and the grade breakdown is as follows:

Cultural Memoir Rubric (25pts)	
_____	Cultural Memoir met page length requirements (2.5)
_____	Cultural Memoir provided a thorough analysis of the beliefs, assumptions, and values through which you interpret the world (10)
_____	Cultural Memoir provided relevant and appropriate examples when necessary (10)
_____	Cultural Memoir contained minimal grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors (2.5)