

The Culture Quilt*

A quilt is a large covering stitched together from many smaller pieces of cloth. Similarly, a number of different characteristics define an individual's culture. Construct your own culture quilt. Each of the sixteen boxes below contains a short statement related to a specific aspect of culture. As a PowerPoint presentation, or in some other creative fashion, replicate the grid and fill in each square with a symbol (sentence, picture, drawing, poem, etc.) that relates the statement to your own life experience. **BE CREATIVE!** You will share this visual representation through a brief class presentation.

What word or concept best describes your family?	What words of wisdom have been passed down to you from your family?	What are the beliefs about child rearing in your family?	What country, other than the United States, do you identify as a place of origin for you and your family?
What do you and/or your family see as the value of education or teaching?	What word or concept best describes your experience in school?	How do you learn best?	Who was your most influential teacher?
With what culture, other than your own, are you familiar?	What has been your most challenging cultural experience?	What is the one question you would like to ask a member of another cultural, racial, or ethnic group?	What culture, other than your own, would you like to know more about?
Whom do you respect and how do you show respect?	What is your concept of beauty?	How do you like to spend your spare time?	What negative comment or stereotype have you heard people make about the members of your cultural, racial, or ethnic group and how did it make you feel?

*Adapted by J. J. Irvine from Bennett, C. (1999). *Multicultural Education*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Rationale for assignment:

This assignment helps us move towards satisfying the following course objectives:

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1. Examine the development of his/her own cultural identity and learning styles.
2. Develop and apply strategies for observing, analyzing, and comparing differences related to family structures, socioeconomic status, abilities/disabilities and culture.

The assignment is also aligned with the following INTASC (Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium) standards:

Standard 1/Subject Matter: Understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structure of the discipline(s) he or she teaches, and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for students.

Standard 3/Diverse Learners: Understands how students differ in their approaches to learning and creates instructional opportunities that are adapted to learners from diverse cultural backgrounds and with exceptionalities.

Standard 5/Learning Environment: Uses an understanding of individual and group motivation and behavior to create a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.