

Master of Arts in Teaching
EDU 514
Cultural Self-Assessment

(Adapted from Lynch, Eleanor W. and Marci J. Hanson. (1998). Developing Cross-Cultural Competence. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., and Davidman, Leonard and Patricia T. Davidman. (2001). Teaching with a Multicultural Perspective. Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers Inc.)

This activity is designed to help you focus on your background and its influence on you. You will receive feedback on your answers, but not a grade.

ORIGINS

1. Name _____
2. Where are you from? _____
3. Where do you live now? _____
4. Which languages were or are spoken in your childhood home?

5. What languages are spoken in your current home? _____

6. When you think about your roots, what place(s) of origin do you identify for your family?

7. Have you ever heard any stories about how your family or your ancestors to the place where you grew up or how they came to the United States? Briefly, what was the story?

8. Are you comfortable in describing yourself as a member of a racial, ethnic, or cultural group? If so, which groups would you say you are a part of?

9. Are there any foods that you or someone else prepares that are traditional for your place of origin or some other aspect of your heritage? What are they? What is their significance?

10. Are there any celebrations, ceremonies, rituals, or holidays that your family celebrates that reflect your place of origin or some other aspect of your heritage? What are they? How are they celebrated?

Beliefs, Biases, and Behaviors

11. Have you ever heard anyone make a negative comment about people from your place(s) of origin or about another aspect of your heritage? How did you handle it?

12. As you were growing up, do you remember discovering that your family did anything differently from other families because of your culture, religion, or ethnicity? What was it? Why did it seem unusual?

13. Try to recall your earliest memories of discovering that people would or could be treated differently because of their racial, ethnic, and/or cultural group membership. Choose one memory and describe the circumstances and your feelings.

14. Have you ever done anything that you think was culturally inappropriate when you have been in another country or with someone from a different culture? What was it?

Imagine

15. Imagine that for a week out of this year you will become a member of another cultural or ethnic group. Which group would you choose to be part of for that week? Why?

16. What is one value from that culture or ethnic group that attracts you to it?

17. Is there anything about that culture or ethnic group that concerns or frightens you?

18. Name one way in which you think your life would be different if you were from that ethnic or cultural group.
