



Introduction:

The activity introduces a very basic cultural notion: the multifaceted self, a self that has been shaped, and that will continue to be shaped and to evolve through life, through our engagement with a large number of cultural groups.

Participant Instructions:

1. The facilitator will pose the following question to the large group: What has the greatest impact on who we are, what we think, what we desire, how we act, etc.?
 - Is it our common humanity—universal things that we share with all other humans?
 - Is it our unique personality?
 - Is it our culture?

Discuss in the large group. Then, you'll be broken into small groups of 3-4 people, and given 3 minutes to assign a percentage to each of the three.

Consider: Culture is that which organizes the way we experience and give meaning to the world; it tells us how things are organized, both mentally and in our physical world.

2. On a piece of paper, draw a small circle in the center and write "me" inside the circle.
3. Connect to the circle a series of lines, radiating outward, that provides a constellation of groups that you have belonged to, or still belong to, that have had an influence on who you are today. A "group" can be as small as an immediate family, or as large as a nation, or a region in a nation. It could be a profession, a religious group, a school or university, a civic organization, a band or an orchestra, a social or economic class, a sports club or team, etc. If you can't think of very many groups, you can identify individuals.
4. Continue reflecting on the groups you belong to with the following questions and instructions:
 - What was most important to each of these groups? Write down at least two things that were/are important to each group or individual in the constellation.
 - What kind of behavior was/is rewarded or punished? Write this down, next to the group.
 - List at least two values that you've absorbed or learned from each of these groups.
5. Discuss: Are/were there conflicting values among the groups, and how have/are you attempting to respond to this?
6. Discuss: Are/were you the same person in each of these groups? Share insights about your own contrasting behavior and priorities as they functioned in their various groups.



Consider: You're already learning and adapting across cultures, and your engagement with others will allow you to develop skills that you already have, through, among other things, becoming more aware of how you're responding to others, and of the cultural groups that have taught you to respond in those particular ways.