

Introduction:

This activity is intended to help participants learn more about each other's culture and background. The activity provides a variety of questions related to different pieces of social identities. Participants take turns choosing a question out of a jar or spinning a virtual question wheel. On each turn, participants can decide to answer the question themselves or to ask the question to the facilitator.

Facilitator Notes:

It is helpful to know where the participants are on the Intercultural Development Continuum (IDC) and frame conversations according to their Developmental Orientation. Note this is a good activity to do one-on-one after you have done a [personal or social identity profile activity](#) with the larger group and have broken down different social identities. Additionally, it helps to have built some level of rapport with the participants before doing this activity. Feel free to create your own questions based on your participants' needs. Some of these are specific to the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) experience, but this could be a standalone activity if adapted. Additionally, it is helpful to have a definition sheet of social identities readily available if you have to define anything for the participants.

This activity can be facilitated in person or virtually.

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss and share their culture and background with others.
2. Define different terms about culture and identity.
3. Increase self-awareness and other awareness.
4. Practice verbal communication across difference.

Time:

1 hour.

Group Size:

Entire Group.

Materials:

Participant Instructions; Cultural Questions (in [Downloads](#)); a jar or similar container for slips of paper with questions or access to the internet if facilitating virtually.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization

- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Verbal and Nonverbal Communication

- To articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication (e.g., demonstrates understanding of the degree to which people use physical contact while communicating in different cultures or use direct/indirect and explicit/implicit meanings).
- To skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on these differences.

Curiosity

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Openness

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Other Skills:

Friendship; Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Activity Instructions:

1. Print and cut out the questions on the Cultural Questions document (in [Downloads](#)) individually and place in a jar or similar container or add all the questions in the document to the wheel at the [Wheelofnames](#) website.
2. Read the following instructions out loud and then have participants take turns picking questions to answer or to ask you as the facilitator:

Today, we will learn more about each other's culture and background. In this activity, we will find a variety of questions related to different pieces of our social identities. For the next hour, we will take turns asking questions. When it is your turn, please read your question loud. On your turn, you can decide to answer the question yourself or to ask the question to me. However, once you make that decision, you must keep that consistent throughout the activity. If you do not understand what a question is asking or need a term defined, please ask. There is no expectation for you to know how these concepts are defined, so do not be afraid to admit ignorance if you do not fully understand a question. If the question places you in your panic zone, you can simply choose another question.

What questions do you have?

Instruct participants to choose questions out of the jar, or to spin the virtual wheel of questions depending on which option you choose to facilitate the activity.

3. Once you and the participants finish answering the questions, this activity should be debriefed using either the [Thiagi Debriefing](#) method or the ["What? So what? Now what?"](#) method.