

Private Discussion Assignment:

This assignment is intended to help increase your cultural self-awareness.

Intercultural Knowledge and Effectiveness Rubric:

	Developing	Emerging	Proficient
Knowledge <i>Cultural self-awareness</i>	Identifies own cultural rules and biases (e.g. with a strong preference for those rules shared with own cultural group and seeks the same in others).	Recognizes new perspectives about own cultural rules and biases (e.g. not looking for sameness; comfortable with the complexities that new perspectives offer).	Articulates 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).

Self-awareness is defined by many leadership experts as a key to high attainment. It is about understanding what has influenced your own inner world-view as well as shaping your unique mix of values, strengths, and weaknesses.

There are three parts to this assignment: completing the Self-Awareness Worksheet, completing the Core Cultural Values & Culture Mapping Worksheet, and writing a short reflection. Submit to the appropriate Blackboard threads according to the steps below. Also, before you begin, please read "05 Spencer-Oatey & Franklin-Unpacking Culture.pdf."

Part 1—Complete the Self-Awareness Worksheet:

1. Complete the "05 Self-Awareness Worksheet.docx."
2. Fill out the first page according to its instructions. You **MUST** fill in all 12 identity text-boxes and have at least six identity items that demonstrate you have thought deeply about and can describe your own cultural identity (the social influences that help make you who you are).
3. On the second page, select and respond to at least five of the 10 questions.
4. Post a list of identities and responses to your five selected questions.

Step 2—Complete Core Cultural Values & Culture Mapping Worksheet:

1. Carefully read and complete "05 Self-Awareness Core Cultural Values & Culture Mapping activity sheet.pdf," being sure to indicate your degree of fit with each of the two cultural value items in all nine value-orientation pairs. Even if they are frequently viewed as opposites, there may be situations in which one individual aligns with a value orientation that is different from his or her usual "stereotypical" pattern for a given value-orientation pair.
2. Take a photo of and post your activity sheet as an image in the discussion board.

- a. There are a couple ways to do this. You can print out the worksheet and then snap a photo of it with your cellphone, or you can use the Snipping Tool (available on all MS Windows devices) to open a box over the image of the worksheet and save that as a JPEG. On Macs, press COMMAND+SHIFT+4 simultaneously to snip a specific area of the screen to the desktop. When the cursor changes to a cross +, drag a box around the section you want to copy, and release the mouse. Again, save as a JPEG. In the Blackboard discussion board, select “Insert Image” from the tool bar (NOT insert attachment).

Part 3—Write short reflection

1. Write a short reflection on the one value orientation pair in which your host culture seems to be either MOST DIFFERENT (if you are in Denial or Minimization) or MOST SIMILAR (if you are in Polarization or Acceptance) to your value orientation. Please describe the difference or similarity as you perceive it and address the following two questions:
 - b. How does this difference or similarity make you feel?
 - c. What are one or two influences in your background which have shaped your approach to this value orientation?
2. Post your reflection in the discussion board. After your mentor has provided you with feedback, you must take an additional two turns in the discussion to complete this assignment and receive a grade.
3. Please remember to reflect on your current IDI stage and how to move along the continuum when posting your responses and follow up posts. Be sure to respond to your mentor’s question about your IDI stage.
4. Be sure to respond to your mentor’s question about cultural self-awareness.

TIP: If you are having trouble noticing value differences or similarities (or you are concerned about stereotyping), you can compare/contrast your home and host country nationalities using the [cultural comparison tool](#) on the Hofstede Center website, which is based on several decades of validated sociological research, or check out “05 Cultural Differences that Matter – Lanier 2007.pdf” on Blackboard.

IMPORTANT: Once you have completed and submitted this week’s assignments you should immediately begin making arrangements for Week 9’s interview with a professional (see Week 9 Assignment sheet for details). It is imperative that you begin looking for an interviewee and arrange a scheduled time to meet for the interview well in advance so as to have time to complete the interview and the assigned reflection. Hence, this 4-week notice!

While it is possible that this interview will be beneficial to your ideas about grad school and/or a career, we advise that you try to avoid the term “information interview” when recruiting your interviewee. (We recommend being transparent about the fact that it is a class assignment instead.)