

Name: _____

Date: _____

With at least two individuals from a culture different from your own, complete the following questionnaire. Discuss your responses as a group. Be sure to maintain an objective and respectful discourse. Try to make your partners feel comfortable with saying whatever comes to mind without fear of judgement. Take notes on comments made by your partners that you feel provide significant insight into understanding the way they view the world. Remind them that the questions are not necessarily about them specifically, but rather their home culture as a group. Ask each partner why they answered the way they did and share the same for your responses. When you finish the discussion, collect each of the questionnaires.

1. History

List the top 5 historical events to impact your culture (local, ethnic, racial, national, etc.):

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

2. Economics

List the top 3 industries and/or resources in your culture's economy:

a.

b.

c.

How would you describe your economic system?

a. Traditional - Typically agrarian, needs-focused

b. Command - Centrally organized by government, collective

- c. Free-market - Competitive and profit focused
- d. Mixed - Command and free-market combined

3. Beliefs

What is the dominant religion or spiritual practice in your culture, if any?

What do you believe to be the origin of the universe?

What do you believe to be the nature of life and death?

4. Practices

What rituals are practiced in your culture?

What customs are practiced in your culture?

What ceremonies commonly take place in your culture?

What holidays do you celebrate in your culture?

What sports are most popular in your culture?

What hobbies are most popular in your culture?

What forms of entertainment are popular in your culture?

What other practices are commonly regarded as important in your home?

5. Politics

How would you describe the power structure of your government?

- a. Anarchy: voluntary interaction, no publicly enforced authority
- b. Autocracy: Supreme social and political power centralized in one person or political group
- c. Democracy: Citizens exercise power directly through elections
- d. Oligarchy: Power is centralized within a small number of people

How would you describe the socio-political attributes of your government?

(You may select more than one.)

- a. Capitalist – means of production are owned by private individuals and negotiated by workers and consumers
- b. Colonialist – external political power subjugates a group, land, and resources

- c. Communist – socialist system in which means of productions are commonly owned by the people or state
- d. Despotic – a system in which laws and resources are controlled by one individual
- e. Monarchist: power is consolidated, to varying degrees, within a head sovereign usually from a ruling group or family
- f. Republican – a system in which laws and governmental practice are considered a public matter and decided by the citizens of the society.
- g. Socialist – a system in which workers, democratically and/or socially own the means of production
- h. Totalitarian – a system in which the land and resources are controlled by a centralized authoritarian state that holds absolute political power.
- i. Tribal – a system based upon a small complex society with varying degrees of centralization headed by an individual chief.

6. Communication

How would you describe the dominant communication style of your culture?

- a. Direct- explicit, provides context, focus on task
- b. Indirect – implicit, assumes understood context, focus on relationships
- c. Emotionally expressive – animated non-verbals, dynamic volume and tone,
- d. Emotionally restrained – controlled non-verbals, narrow range of tone, lower volume, stoic

How would you describe your discourse style?

- e. Overlapper – simultaneous speaking
- f. Turn-taker – waits for speaker to stop before responding
- g. Pauser – waits for speaker to finish before reflecting on how to respond

What are the dominant and non-dominant languages where you are from?

What is the official/legal language of government and business where you are from?

What languages do you speak?

7. Values

Which values are more important according to your culture? Or are they equally important?

- a. Collectivist or Individualist _____
- b. Hierarchical or Egalitarian _____
- c. Meritocracy (free will) or Ascription (fate) _____
- d. Task-focused or Relationship-focused _____
- e. Traditional or Progressive _____

Partner Discussion

Gather as much of the following information as your partner is willing to share:

Partner 1 (Name): _____

Relevant cultural information

Nationality: _____

Current Residence: _____

Racial and/or Ethnic group: _____

Economic background: _____

Educational background: _____

Additional info: _____

Partner 2 (Name): _____

Relevant cultural information

Nationality: _____

Current Residence: _____

Racial and/or Ethnic group: _____

Economic background: _____

Educational background: _____

Additional info: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

After the discussion, reflect on the responses in each of the questionnaires as well as your notes by answering the following prompts:

1. How has one or more of the historical events mentioned affected:

You: _____

Partner 1: _____

Partner 2: _____

2. How have the industries, economic products, and government structures influenced:

You: _____

Partner 1: _____

Partner 2: _____

3. How do the beliefs and practices identified define and structure the world as seen by:



You: _____

Partner 1: _____

Partner 2: _____

4. What do the preferred communication styles and value systems tell us about:

You: _____

Partner 1: _____

Partner 2: _____

Debriefing Questions

As we begin to understand that worldviews are constructed through a shared cultural experience, we can investigate those experiences that define our culture and thus our worldview. Likewise, we can begin to explore the worldview of others.

	Developing	Emerging	Proficient
<p>Knowledge</p> <p><i>Knowledge of cultural worldview frameworks</i></p> 	<p>Demonstrates partial understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.</p>	<p>Demonstrates adequate understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.</p>	<p>Demonstrates sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.</p>

Now that you have completed the questionnaire and a discussion with your partners, I would like you to reflect on your worldview and then the worldviews of your partners. Either as written reflection or as a whole group discussion, answer the following questions.

1. Of the elements of worldview frameworks discussed, which do you feel play the largest role in how the world is viewed and understood by members of your culture? By members of your partners' cultures?
2. What do you feel was the most significant and/or surprising thing you learned about your own worldview and that of your partners?
3. Were there any historical or political events that you realized influence how you see the world that you perhaps had never considered before?
4. Can you make connections between 2 or more elements of worldview explored in the questionnaire? (e.g. History, politics, and values; values, beliefs, and practices; etc.) Can you explain these connections? How does each element influence/inform the other?
5. How might you take what you've learned here and apply it to new interactions in the future?
6. How is understanding the complexity of elements important to members of another culture beneficial to you? In school? At work? Traveling abroad?