

## **Introduction:**

This lesson is adapted from Kristin Samarov's Cultural Artifacts activity (see citation below). It is a version that can be facilitated over Zoom or any other video chat platform.

## **Activity Instructions:**

1. Upload "Handout #1: Cultural Artifact: A Self-Awareness Activity" to your learning management system, or send over email (see the following page). This handout contains the assignment asking students to bring an artifact to the next virtual class and be prepared to speak about it for 3-5 minutes.
2. During the next class, have each student demonstrate and explain their cultural artifact over Zoom. Remind students to discuss their reasons for selecting the artifact, what it means to them, and how it represents their culture.
3. After the presentations, ask students to pair up (in breakout rooms) and discuss their experiences and insights. Post in a discussion board or over email the following questions for pairs to discuss:
  - How did this activity help you learn about or increase your awareness of yourself? Of others?
  - What have you learned about culture (yours and others') during this activity?
4. Discussion: Ask volunteers to share their lessons learned with the whole group.
5. As follow up asynchronous work, provide "Handout #2: "Reflective Writing: Cultural Artifact" (see page 3 of this document).

## **Handout #1: CULTURAL ARTIFACT: A Self-Awareness Activity**

Select an artifact that tells a story about your cultural background that you can share with the class. This artifact can be a picture or an object (a piece of clothing, jewelry, a tool etc.). You will need to select something that is easy to display over Zoom.

If possible, choose an item that illustrates something about your cultural background that is not obvious. We want to learn something about your background that is not readily apparent.

If you cannot find a "hidden" part of your background, teach us something we may not have known about your culture.

Turn to your family members to learn more about your background. If that is not possible, do research so that you have something significant to share with the rest of the class about your cultural heritage.

If you do not have an object to display from home, copy an appropriate picture from a magazine or book, download an image from the Internet, etc. Remember, the visual component of this exercise is important.

Be prepared to do a 3-5 minute presentation to describe your artifact, explain why you selected it, and answer any questions. Students who do not come to class prepared on the date of the presentation will receive no presentation points.

## **Handout #2: REFLECTIVE WRITING: Cultural Artifacts**

Write a one-page typed reflective essay discussing what you learned about your background and yourself from this exercise. Please proofread your essay carefully for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.