

Overview:

This lesson challenges participants to think more deeply about how culture contributes to everyday norms/behaviors and habits. With a partner, they will choose several cards from two sets: cultural contexts and behaviors/norms. Then, they will talk through their life experiences and attempt to “connect the dots” between how their cultural contexts have affected their behaviors/norms in particular scenarios. Finally, they will complete a debriefing reflection on what they learned about themselves and their partner.

Objectives:

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

1. Identify cultural contexts that are important to them.
2. Explore how their cultural contexts have shaped their behaviors/norms.
3. Compare and contrast their positionality and experiences with others.

Time:

1 hour

Group Size:

Pairs

Materials:

Access to Zoom or other similar video conference platform, the Connect Your Cultural Dots Participant Instructions, and the Connect Your Cultural Dots Cards (both in [Downloads](#)).

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).

Openness:

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

Empathy

- To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
- To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.

Other Skills:

Friendship

Activity Instructions:

1. First, assign partners for this activity. Partners will meet on their own time outside of class meetings over Zoom or another similar video conferencing platform.

Note: To pair up participants, use an activity such as [Intercultural People Bingo](#), [Similarities and Differences](#), and [Six Differences](#).

2. When the partners meet, they will each pick one card from the two cards sets in the Connect Your Cultural Dots Cards document: one cultural context card and one behaviors/norms card. Then, they should each take turns talking through how they believe that cultural context has influenced their chosen behavior/norm. They might use the following questions as guides:
 - Why did you choose this particular cultural context?
 - How would you describe your experiences within this cultural context?
 - Why did you choose this particular behavior/norm?
 - How would you describe your experiences related to this behavior/norm?
 - What is the relationship between your cultural context and this behavior/norm? How might you connect the dots between them?
3. Then, they should compare and contrast their experiences:
 - What are some of the similarities between your experiences?
 - What are some of the differences?
 - How does culture play into these similarities and differences?
4. Once finished, they should complete a debriefing reflection (either written or audio/video) that addresses the following questions:
 - What did you learn about yourself as you were talking through your life experiences?
 - What did you learn about your partner?
 - What did you learn about the relationship between culture and behaviors/norms?

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Iceberg](#)
- [Universal Cultural or Personal Card Game](#)

Tools to use in conjunction with this activity:

- [Intercultural People Bingo](#)
- [Similarities and Differences](#)
- [Six Differences](#)