



Introduction:

This activity will demonstrate how different cultures express values through titles of address. You will describe the honorifics used in your own and different cultures and discuss the traits those honorifics highlight.

Different cultures use different honorifics, which can provide some insight into what values and elements are important in that culture. You will begin by listing honorifics and the corresponding culture in which the honorific is used. Next, you will describe the aspects each honorific highlights, such as skill, age, relationship, etc.

Participant Instructions:

You will first begin with a class discussion on the following questions:

- The terms "Sir" and "Ma'am" are used more frequently in some parts of the U.S than in others. What parts of the country use these terms most often? Why are these honorifics used?
- Do people in your culture refer to each other by their first names, or are the honorifics "Mr./Mrs./Ms. (Last Name)" or equivalent more frequently used? Why do you think there are these differences?
- The terms "Auntie" and "Uncle" are frequently used in India, for example, when referring to older women and men who are not necessarily related to an individual. Why do you think this is done?
- List some honorifics used to show respect for people who have a particular skill.
- Some cultures have more terms indicating family relationship status. Provide some examples. Why do you think these differences in culture exist?
- What do these honorifics tell us about that particular culture's values?

Then you will engage in a debrief and reflection on the following questions:

- What are the main takeaways?
- How might you use this understanding when encountering new honorifics?