

Personal Cultural inventory

This set of questions/prompts will help you unpack your personal culture and can be used to better understand yourself, your staff, and/or your students. Please respond to the following questions in brief. You may respond in one of two ways or both - from your experience as a child **or** from your perspective as an adult.

Would you describe your family as a patriarchy or a matriarchy...or a blend?

Who are the “keepers of knowledge” in your family (who tells the stories, keeps information about the elders)?

What information or skills are most important and valuable in your family?

How do people in your family share important information and stories?

How do visitors to your home learn the “unspoken rules” of your house (i.e. – shoes should be taken off at the door; food should not be taken out of the fridge without express permission)? What are those “rules”?

Describe your family’s favorite way to spend free-time/vacation time.

What activities made you happiest as a child?

What experience(s) made you sad or angry?

Describe how members of your family deal with conflict.

Describe the belief system (or lack thereof) practiced by members of your family.

How do the members of your family relate to the following members of the community (write down the first word or phrase that comes to mind when you think about each group):

- Law enforcement
- Educators
- Religious figures
- The wealthy
- The homeless
- The elderly

How valuable is it to most of the members of your family to be on time to

Family events	not important	unsure	very important
Work	not important	unsure	very important
Dates (romantic)	not important	unsure	very important

Describe the level of noise you were used to in your home as a child and what is comfortable for you in your home as an adult. (e.g. – television and/or radio always on; not much talking).

Which has more value in your family, if a choice had to be made – making money or having a career devoted to service?

Which material objects or ideas are most important to your parent(s)?

How is success measured in your family? Who is considered to be "successful"? Explain.

Does your family place greater value on **independence** or **interdependence**? Explain.

Would you describe your family as being "savvy" - knowing how to move within public systems (understanding how to apply to college, talk to educators, health care providers, law officers, etc.)?

How would you describe a "good" student? A "well-behaved" child?

How were you raised to understand "professionalism" - attire, behavior, communication?

What are topics appropriate/inappropriate for discussion at work or in school?