

Cultural Concept Terms Defined

Below you will find the cultural concept terms from this website defined. While each term has guiding questions to help think about what it means, please understand that you or your students may interpret the term completely different altogether. These questions are just meant to spark conversation about the term and how each can be applied to the lives and culture of an individual.

Social Behavior

- How are you expected to act in public? What kind of behavior is acceptable? Unacceptable? What does conversation look like?

Celebrations

- What do you celebrate? How do you celebrate? What is considered cause for celebration? What is the purpose of celebration?

Age

- How do expectations grow/change with each age? What is the role of children/teen/adult/elderly?

Conversation

- What does conversation look like? Sound like? How do conversations look different based on who you are talking to?

Authority

- How do you view authority? How do you act towards authority? What attitudes do you hold towards authority figures?

Community

- What do you see as your community? What role does community play in your life? What is the job of the community?

Sports/Games

- How important are sports? How important are games? What is the function of sports/games? What type of sports/games do you play? Participate?

Courtship

- How do you communicate with someone you like? Someone you think is good looking? What is acceptable behavior towards a significant other? How is marriage viewed? How is dating viewed? Dating practices?

Adolescence

- What is the role of a teenager? What is expected of you as you reach adolescence? How do expectations grow, diminish, or stay the same?

Leadership

- What does it take to be a leader? How do you show leadership? Are you pushed to lead or to follow? What kind of leader do you react positively/negatively towards?

Elders

- How are you expected to treat elders? How do you view elders? What role do elders play in your community?

Gender

- How are your roles/expectations different based on gender? How are they similar? What is expected of men? Women?

Adulthood

- When are you considered to have reached adulthood? How do expectations change once in adulthood? How is adulthood defined?

Family

- How important is family? What family traditions do you have? What is the role of the parent/brother/grandparent/aunt/uncle? What are common interaction patterns between family members?

Dress

- What kind of dress is appropriate? Inappropriate? What connection does your dress have to other aspects of culture?

Work

- What is the purpose of work? What kind of work is acceptable? How do you view work?

Fear

- What are you afraid of? How do you show fear? How do you share your fears? Who do you share fears with?

Intimacy

- How do you show intimacy with others around you? Family? Sibling? Spouse? What is acceptable physical contact and what is not?

Identity

- What does it mean to be yourself? What is your purpose in life? What role do you play? What kind of identity is acceptable? Unacceptable?

Superstitions

- Are you superstitious? Why/why not? Where do superstitions come from?

Emotions

- How do you show your emotions? What are you allowed to feel or not allowed to feel? Are you allowed/encouraged to talk about your emotions?

Friendship

- What makes a good friend? How do you communicate with a friend? What is the role of a friend?

Modesty

- How modest are you expected to be? What role does pride play in your life? What does modesty look like? What does pride look like?

Past/Future

- What role does the past play in your future? What is expected of your future?

Food

- What are traditional foods in your household? What role does food play in your home? Outside of home? What foods are you not allowed to eat?

Class

- How does your class affect your life? What expectations are put on you because of your class? What do you expect of people in other classes?

Courtesy

- How do you show politeness? What is your view of respect? Who deserves respect? Who doesn't deserve your respect? How do you decide?

Music

- What type of music do you listen to? What is the purpose of music?

Dance

- What traditional dances do you have? What are your attitudes towards dance? What is the purpose of dance?

Literature

- What is the purpose of reading? How important is reading in your home? What type of reading is done in your home?

School/Academics

- What is expected of your school work? Homework? Grades? High school graduation? College? Community or University? Career?

Language

- What language(s) do you speak? Is that language different at school/home? What role does language play in connection to your culture?

Slang

- How do you use slang? What is the purpose of slang? Who do you use slang with? How do you change slang based on who you are talking to?