

SOCIAL DESIGNS Culture Wheel – Community Building Tool*

PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

The purpose of the activity is for participants to share their cultural practices with each other in an interactive and engaging manner. This can be facilitated as a low risk or high risk activity. We recommend name sharing or some other icebreaker before beginning the activity.

SUPPLIES AND SPACE NEEDED

- Large cards with culture components.*
- Space large enough for participants to stand in small circles with 4 to 8 people per circle.

Culture Components

- **Low Risk**
 - Traditions
 - Words
 - Phrases
 - Nicknames
 - Food
 - Music
- **High Risk**
 - Ethnicity (ies)
 - Home
 - Surroundings/Neighborhood
 - Race
 - First Language
 - Religion/Spirituality
 - Conflict

**See page two for explanations and examples of culture components.*

DIRECTIONS FOR THE ACTIVITY

Step One-

Split the group up in groups of 4-8. Participants do not need any paper or pencil/pen for this exercise. Have each group create their own standing circle facing inward.

Step Two-

Explain that we are about to play a game. This game is about sharing their individual culture with one another. Explain what each category means and give an example.

Step Three-

Hand each member one of the sheets of paper with a component and ask them to stand on it. Everyone needs to stand in a circle facing each other. Ask everyone to shift one component to the left.

Step Four-

Instruct participants to share their culture as it relates to the component they are standing on. Highly encourage participants to include as much detail as possible when sharing. After each person shares in the circle, everyone will rotate and share another component until everyone has shared from each component.

PROCESSING QUESTIONS

1. How did the activity make you feel?
 2. Did you have anything in common with fellow participants? If so, what?
 3. What do you like about the activity?
 4. What, if anything, made you feel uncomfortable during the activity?
 5. Are we often given time to share these things with each other? Why or why not?
 6. Do you usually ask these questions up front when meeting someone new or when you are developing a work relationship? Why or why not?
-

KEY POINTS

1. Take time to learn deeply about one another.
 2. It is important to develop more intentional relationships in order to understand other more.
 3. Be inquisitive after this activity! Seek to learn more about each other.
-

EXPLANATIONS & EXAMPLES OF THE COMPONENTS

Traditions- Rituals, heritage events
Ex-Blue light Basement, CIAA

Words- unique dialect, words, or language
Ex- Fitna=about to

Phrases- a lesson or riddle

Ex-The grass is always greener on the other side

Nicknames- another name referred to a person for a reason or not

Ex-Jada Pooh- Winnie the Pooh

Food- traditional food, snack, or drink

Ex- Cheese & Eggs from Rich Square

Music- sounds, songs, or genres

Ex- Juke Joint Genre, Rock, Soca

Ethnicity (ies)- cultural group

Ex- African American, Haitian, Jewish, Cherokee

Home- the place you live: sounds, smells, things you see

Ex- bright colors, ethnic art, incense

Surroundings/Neighborhood- your current natural setting and structure of your immediate space outside of your home. As a child or current

Ex- Town home community, lots of trees and young families; fields of cotton, corn, tobacco, dirt roads

Race- the racial group or groups you identify with

Ex- Black, White, Latino/Hispanic, Asian, Indian/Native American/ Indigenous

First language- the language that was spoken by you in your home as a child; include dialects

Ex- English, Spanish, Patois

Conflict- the methods or habits in which you or a group you are connected with address conflict

Ex- direct, indirect, with humor

Religion/Spirituality- the religious group or groups you identify with or do not identify with

Ex- Muslim, Southern Baptist, Atheist, Buddhist,