

What Are the Cultures that Shape You?

Student Name _____

Date _____

The society around us shapes the way we think and act. We are all parts of many different cultures – the cultures of our country, our religion, our ethnic background, our local community, our family, and many others. This web of cultures creates our understandings of what we can and should do, what is good and what is bad. Please answer the following questions based on your own web of cultures. For some of the questions, you may have more than one answer, or conflicting answers, because you belong to more than one culture or community.

1) List some of the cultures and communities to which you belong.

2) Who are some of the people who create or enforce the standards in those communities? (for example: teachers, parents, religious leaders, influential members of the community, friends)

3) What is something that is considered forbidden or taboo in your web of cultures?

4) What is something that is considered embarrassing in your web of cultures?

5) What are some personality traits or actions valued highly in your web of cultures?

6) Name some of the roles that you play in your web of cultures or communities (For example: student, friend, daughter, son, brother, sister, congregant, performer, participant)

7) What are some of the responsibilities of your roles?

8) What are you not allowed to do in your web of cultures, that you think other people in other cultures are allowed to do?

9) Are there different expectations for girls than for boys in your web of cultures? Explain.

10) Are there different expectations for young people than for old people in your web of cultures? Explain.

11) Someone who knows nothing about any of the cultures in your web of cultures has just moved next door to you. Write a paragraph describing the rules that you think they need to know how to follow in order to function successfully in your neighborhood, school, and other communities.