

PSY 132 – Psychology And Culture

PSYCHOLOGY AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

Description

This assignment is designed to allow you to explore and learn about various cultures through a variety of tasks and assignments. Work for this assignment is to be done throughout the semester with the finished product – a portfolio – due at the end of the semester.

Objectives

Learn about various cultures and diversity issues through a study of cross-cultural psychology culminating in the production of a portfolio.

Tasks

For your portfolio you will complete three (3) tasks as described below.

1. Cultural Self Awareness

Complete the cultural self awareness questionnaire by asking family members questions about your various cultural affiliations and by thinking about cultural groups with whom you identify.

2. Cultural Exploration

From the following list, choose five of the seven cultures to explore. For each of the cultures you will pick one of the seven topics in psychology that are also listed below. Your task is to learn how your chosen culture influences or interprets that psychological topic. All the categories of cultures and topics below are very broad, and you may choose a specific part of the culture, or specific aspect of a psychology topic on which to focus. However, once you use a psychology topic for one culture, you can **not** use it again for another culture.

Cultures

American Ethnicity (Native American, Hispanic, African-American, Asian, Pacific Islander, etc.)
Religion
Sexual Orientation
Age / Generation
Gender
Disability

Psychology Topics

Communication (verbal and/or non-verbal)
Cognitive Style / Problem Solving
Memory
Social Behaviors
Parenting / Developmental Issues
Learning Issues
Personality

For each culture you choose, you must obtain information from at least two sources: (1) an interview, and (2) a publication focusing on that specific culture. The interview can NOT be with a family member or relative. You may obtain additional information from any other “credible” source.

You must provide references for your interviews and for all sources used. A reference section should be at the end of each of the five cultures you explored. Full bibliographical references must be provided for all publication sources and interviews.

The write up for each culture should be a minimum of 2 pages long. You may add photos, pictures, and so forth to enhance your presentation, however, this is not part of the 2-page requirement. There may be an opportunity for you to exchange your portfolios with your classmates and/or to share what you learned about a culture you studied with your classmates. Portfolios may be kept at the end of the semester by Dr. Gray.

3. Summary And Reflections

Write a narrative that summarizes what you have learned during the course of the semester as you worked on your portfolio. You may wish to include things that surprised you, common elements you found among various cultures, and unique elements you found among various cultures. Discuss whether or not your thinking or behavior has changed, and if so, how. This is your opportunity to bring together and reflect upon things you learned and/or discovered from working on this portfolio project. There is no page requirement for this task.

Format and Presentation

All written work for the portfolio must be **typed, double-spaced** on 8½” x 11” paper. You are encouraged to include pictures, drawings, or other additions to enhance the presentation of your portfolio. Plagiarism (copying from another source) is grounds for a paper to be rejected. **Papers that do not follow these format criteria will not be accepted.**

Point Value

The portfolio (including the two checkpoints) is worth a maximum of 150 points, which is 50% of your final grade.

Due Date

This assignment is due **NO LATER THAN Thursday, April 28th, 2005.**