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2022

Addendum Assignment: Exploring Cultural Identity

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Recommended Citation

Kinoshita, Glen, "Addendum Assignment: Exploring Cultural Identity" (2022). *Intercultural Awareness and Engagement (Abridged)*. 1.
<https://digitalcommons.biola.edu/intercultural-awareness-abridged/1>

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Addendum Assignment: Exploring Cultural Identity

(To be done after *Faculty Profiles* lesson)

Take a few minutes to reflect on each of the following questions:

Ethnicity. How do you identify as a person of ethnicity? Write down what you know of your family's ethnic lineage and how you currently relate to the ethnicities you are able to identify within your family.

Culture. How do you define your cultural identity? What are the practices you engage in daily that reveal your culture and the culture you function in? Are there family traditions that you regularly participate in? Can you identify the cultures around you on a daily basis that differ from the culture(s) you are most comfortable with?

Socioeconomic status. Think back to your upbringing, the neighborhood you grew up in, the schools you attended, and what opportunities you and your family had access to, or didn't have access to. How would you define your family's socioeconomic status (SES)? How much thought have you given to how SES has shaped and continues to influence how you think and function in this world? How has your SES influenced who you are today? How did/has your SES affected your journey to becoming an educator? Is your current SES the same or different from what you grew up in?

Faith-tradition and spirituality. Most who work in Christian colleges/universities would rank their faith as one of their primary identities. How does your faith commitment factor into your relationships with others, particularly with those who are different than yourself in culture, ethnicity and socioeconomic status? Where does diversity and inclusion fit into your spiritual values and life-style? What is your current understanding of how Jesus related to the diverse peoples who lived in Palestine during his lifetime?

Take a few minutes to reflect on how these items (ethnicity, culture, SES, and spirituality) shape who you are as a person and faculty member. As you reflect on your practice as an educator, how does your worldview, or paradigm factor in how you teach and how you interact with students from diverse backgrounds daily?

In addition to viewing the content in this course, what are some practical steps you might take to broaden your capacity to relate to students and colleagues from diverse backgrounds? Where do you feel you could grow in awareness, understanding and practice? Who are some colleagues that you might engage to dialogue with on topics of diversity and inclusion?
