

CULTURAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Respond to the following prompts. Then, use the information to write a **two-page reflective narrative** about what you learned, specifically sharing what discoveries about your family, ethnicity, culture stand out most and why. *Note: This activity was created for college-age students. It can easily be adapted to use with both adults and adolescents, in and out of the classroom.*

1. Name the country/ies other than the US that you identify as a place of origin for yourself and your family.

2. Identify your ethnic/cultural group membership and write out at least three examples of advice that has been handed down through your family by your ancestors, such as a family motto.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

3. List five values that are important to your cultural/racial identity and then rank order them from most important to least important. Identify the source of these values and try to categorize them, e.g. religious belief, political ideal, family tradition, etc.

VALUE	RANK	SOURCE	CATEGORY

4. Write down what particular family members' attitudes are towards people who are different. Categories to consider include: racial and ethnic background, religious belief, ability/disability status, gender identity, sexuality, socio-economic status, rural/urban/suburban, native-born/foreign-born, citizenship status, etc.

5. Write down at least two things that you were encouraged (explicitly or implicitly) to believe about people of other groups.
 - a.
 - b.
6. Compose a list of what kinds of topics were discussed and what kinds of topics were taboo within your family context and why you think that was so.
7. Complete the following sentence starters with the first thing that comes to mind:
 - a. As a woman/man, I must...
 - b. As a member of my ethnic or cultural group, I must...
 - c. As a member of my social group, I must...
 - d. As a member of my profession, I must...
 - e. As a member of my age group, I must...
8. Create a timeline of your life in 5 year blocks. For each block, recall and write down specific incidents in your life that affected your thinking and/or feelings about people who are different from you.
 - a. **Extension Activity:** Take one incident from your life and create a visual representation to share with a teaching partner or colleague.
9. Use your responses from #1-8 to write a separate two-page reflective narrative about what you learned, specifically sharing what discoveries you unearthed about your family, ethnicity, culture, society, etc.