

Revisiting Our Starting Point Ideas

Task 1: The following prompts represent major themes that we explored in this course. Discuss each one with your group members and summarize your thoughts in written form. Your ideas should be clearer and more specific than they were at the beginning of the course. Be sure to write in complete sentences.

Group Members: Dana, Andrea, JiHye

What is culture?	How can cultures be studied, described, analyzed, or compared?
How do people learn culture?	How can I teach culture?
Why is knowledge of culture important for language teachers? In other words, why did we take a whole course about this?	What questions do we still have about culture, culture learning and teaching, and the culture of English speaking countries?

Task 2: *Looking Back*

[CLICK HERE](#) to visit your responses to these questions in the activity we did on Week 1 of the course. In what ways have your ideas changed, deepened, and/or stayed the same?

Task 3: *Course Tasks and Culture Learning*

Read a partial list of topics, activities and assignments that we covered in the course. What do you remember about them? Which were helpful for your culture learning? In what ways?

Topics and Class Activities:

- **Activity:** Reconstruct a Poem, "The Blind Men and the Elephant"
- **Activity:** Body Rituals of the Nacirema People
- **Topic:** Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, American Exceptionalism
- **Topic:** The 5 Dimensions of Culture
- **Topic:** The 4 Cultural Knowings
- **Activity:** Future Archeology / Motel of Mysteries
- **Topic:** Cultural Products
- **Activity:** Drawing a Culture Map of a Place
- **Topic:** The Rugged Individualist
- **Activity:** Song Analysis "Don't Take Your Guns to Town"
- **Topic:** Gun culture in the US
- **Activity:** Exploring Folk Remedies and Perspectives on Health
- **Activity:** Analyze teacher's podcast on American College Football Stadiums

- **Topic:** Cultural Practices
- **Activity:** Exploring Features of a Cultural Practice (Linguistic / Extralinguistic)
- **Topic:** Cultural Perspectives
- **Activity:** Exploration of national identity through symbolic language in the national anthem
- **Activity:** Exploration of Cultural Values in Common Expressions and Proverbs
- **Topic:** Hofstede's 6 Dimensions of Culture
- **Topic:** Schools as Acculturation Institutions
- **Activity:** Song analysis "John Henry was a Steel Driving Man"
- **Topic:** Cultural Communities
- **Activity:** My Community Memberships
- **Topic:** Cultural Persons
- **Topic:** My Cultural Identity
- **Topic:** Culture Learning Outcomes
- **Activity:** Demo Cultural Lesson on the Topic of Tipping in US Culture

Assignments and Readings:

- **Cultural Place Podcast:** You recorded a 7-9 minute podcast about a cultural place in an English speaking country.
- **Folktale Analysis Presentation:** You presented a folktale from an English speaking country and analyzed it in terms of its products, practices, and perspectives.
- **Reading Response Study Guides:** You completed 8 reading response study guides to cover the theoretical content of this course.
 - **Theory Reading:** The Cultural Experience
 - **Theory Reading:** Defining Culture
 - **Theory Reading:** Cultural Products
 - **Theory Reading:** Cultural Practices
 - **Theory Reading:** Cultural Perspectives
 - **Theory Reading:** Cultural Patterns and Communication
 - **Theory Reading:** Cultural Persons
 - **Theory Reading:** Culture Learning Outcomes
- **Culture Learning Journal:** You read 8 articles about specific aspects of US culture as well as 3 articles about aspects of Costa Rican culture.
 - **Journal Reading:** Understanding the Culture of the United States
 - **Journal Reading:** The American Religious Heritage
 - **Journal Reading:** The Frontier Heritage
 - **Journal Reading:** Differences in Customs
 - **Journal Reading:** Traditional American Values and Beliefs
 - **Journal Reading:** The Autobus Diaries
 - **Journal Reading:** Ethnic and Racial Diversity in the United States
 - **Journal Reading:** The Communicative Style of Americans
 - **Journal Reading:** Community Organization in Limón (1915-1948)
 - **Journal Reading:** Family Life
 - **Journal Reading:** Cultural Perspectives in Costa Rica

