**SL27C. Culture**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Level: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Sections 1-4 in the SDLA must be completed before meeting with a tutor and receiving a stamp. Write/type all your answers on this handout.**

**After completing this SDLA, you will be able to:**

* Describe what cultural taboos are
* Use should or shouldn’t to talk about cultural taboos
* Talk to people from different cultures about their cultural taboos

**Sections 1-4 (approximately 45 minutes):** Read the information. Follow each step below to complete this SDLA. Be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor.

**Section 1: Introduction**

Every culture has their own set of social rules that tells others what is acceptable to do and not to do. Sometimes these rules are about how to eat; some are about how to talk to people; and some are about how to maintain your home. Look at the list below of rules related to different cultures. Check whether you think they are true or false.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. In Thailand, don't touch the head of someone older than you, or, in general, don't touch the head at all.
 | * True
 | * False
 |
| 1. Always eat while sitting down when in Indonesia.
 | * True
 | * False
 |
| 1. In Japan, don’t point with your chopsticks.
 | * True
 | * False
 |
| 1. Don’t give an even number of roses as a gift for a romantic occasion in Russia.
 | * True
 | * False
 |
| 1. In India and many other countries, don’t eat food with your left hand.
 | * True
 | * False
 |
| 1. Don’t cut your grass on Sunday in Switzerland.
 | * True
 | * False
 |

Actually, all of the above statements are true. These are called cultural **taboos**, rules against doing or saying something in a particular culture. One important thing to know is that these rules are not written down anywhere. Most cultural taboos are learned through experience or being told by others. For example, in some countries, including the United States, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone, asking adults about their age is generally considered taboo, but people only know this because others have told them it is taboo, or they’ve learned through experience, receiving the “evil eye” when they asked this unacceptable question.

Adapted from: 20 Cultural Taboos. https://www.ufic.ufl.edu/Documents/20%20Cultural%20Taboos.pdf

**Section 2: Using Should or Shouldn’t**

When you want to talk about cultural taboos, one way to talk about them is by using the modal should. Should is always followed by the base form of a verb, and it can be used to express advice. When used in the present, should + base form of verb means that it is an appropriate thing to do or say. On the other hand, should not (shouldn’t) + base form of verb means that it is a cultural taboo and not an appropriate thing to do or say.

**For example:**

* In Indonesia, you **should always** eat while sitting down.
* In Thailand, you **shouldn’t touch** the head of someone older than you, or, in general, you **shouldn’t touch** the head at all.

What are some things that you **should** and **shouldn’t** do in your culture? Complete the chart below with your answers. You will discuss the reasons why with a tutor in Section 5.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Should** | **Shouldn’t**  |
| Eating habits  |  |  |
| Talking to people  |  |  |
| Maintaining your home  |  |  |
| Asking people questions  |  |  |
| Giving and receiving gifts  |  |  |

**Section 3: Taboos in Other Cultures**

Find three other people whom are from a different culture than you. Ask them the following questions about cultural taboos. Make sure you also ask them why it is a cultural taboo. Write their responses in the chart.

\***Note:** You may politely ask to record their responses using your cell phone. If they allow you to record their response, a tutor can help you with any unknown vocabulary words or pronunciation.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name****and****Culture** | **What is something you shouldn’t do when eating? Why?** | **What is something you shouldn’t do when talking to people? Why?** | **What is something you should never give as a gift? Why?** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Section 4: Student Self-Assessment**

![C:\Documents and Settings\wcuser1553\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Z02HHZPN\MC900072629[1].gif]()*Complete this self-assessment before meeting with a tutor.* **Now that you’ve completed sections 1 to 3, check the things you can do:**

* + - I can describe what cultural taboos are.
		- I can use should or shouldn’t to talk about cultural taboos.
		- I can talk to people from different cultures about their cultural taboos.

**DON’T FORGET! Write your name on the clipboard to work with a tutor. The tutor will call your name when he/she is ready.**

**Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!**

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. You will review this SDLA with the tutor and have a conversation about cultural taboos. After your conversation, the tutor will provide you with feedback in the following areas:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of Focus** | **1 Point** | **3 Points** | **5 Points** |
| **Content**  | Student does not provide enough information in responses and does not use appropriate vocabulary.  | Student provides sufficient information in responses and uses appropriate vocabulary some of the time.  | Student provides all necessary information in responses and uses appropriate vocabulary most of the time.  |
| **Skill: Speaking**  | Student’s speech is unclear and requires frequent listener effort.  | Student’s speech is generally clear but requires occasional listener effort.  | Student’s speech is clear and smooth and requires minimal listener effort.  |
| **Oral Fluency**  | Speaks in incomplete sentences that do not flow.  | Speaks in complete sentences some of the time with frequent pauses.  | Speaks in complete sentences with occasional pauses most of the time.  |
|  |  |  | **Total points: /15** |

**\*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on.**

**Tutor Recommendations:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **Congratulations! Move on**

*Student has successfully completed this SDLA and is ready to continue to the next.* | * **Repeat**

*Student hasn’t yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that the student complete it again.* |

**Tutor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**