

Assignment: Two cultures, four artifacts

Your school district encompasses numerous cultures, defined in many ways. Some examples of cultures could be:

1. A culture of recent immigrants with shared language and traditions
2. A youth skateboarding culture
3. A multi-generation athletic culture based on football or another sport
4. A chronically-underemployed culture linked to seasonal or temp work
5. A visible lesbian/gay/bisexual culture
6. A very affluent culture with shared clubs and expensive shops
7. A deeply religious culture organized around a popular house of worship
8. A local college culture that interacts with many of the local teens

Some example of what defines or shapes the cultures are components such as:

1. Language and communication style
2. Health beliefs
3. Family Relationships
4. Sexuality
5. Gender roles
6. Religion
7. Level of acculturation
8. Immigration status
9. Political power
10. Racism
11. Poverty and economic concerns
12. History of oppression
13. Ages and developmental levels

Your task: Select TWO (2) significant local cultures that you believe have a major influence on youth sexuality where you teach. Then, for each culture, identify 2 assets (2 characteristics supportive of healthy sexuality). Finally, acquire an “artifact” (i.e. tangible evidence or proof) representing each asset. For example, a football T-shirt is an artifact of an athletic culture for which some see liabilities (rigid gender roles and sexism) but you can see assets (team spirit, cooperation, responsibility to peers). Bring your FOUR (4) artifacts to class in November. We will discuss them and use them!

Save your “Cultural Components” ranking sheet. Please bring it to the November class, plus a written reflection (1 paragraph is sufficient) to answer the following questions:

1) Did your understanding of each local culture change by doing this assignment? If so, how? If not, why not?

2) Also, as a result, would you change your original choice of the component which you feel has the biggest impact on youth sexuality? Why?