

OVER FIFTY WAYS CULTURE INFLUENCES US

Culture affects every aspect of a person's life. Here is a list of over 50 ways culture influences people.

ETIQUETTE AND BEHAVIOR

- How we greet each other
- What is considered common courtesy
- What is considered impolite
- How we show respect and disrespect
- What is risqué
- How we seek and use health services
- What we find humorous
- How we use mass transit
- Seating placement in a room

HUMAN RELATIONS

- The role of the individual
- The role and structure of the family
- The roles of men and how men should behave
- The roles of women and how women should behave
- The importance of competition between individuals
- Social class system
- Hierarchy in business relationships
- Interactions between strangers
- How to interact with a person in authority (boss, police officer, teacher, etc.)
- How to interact with a person who is serving us
- Relationships and obligations between parents
- Crowd or audience behavior

BELIEFS AND VALUES

- What is beautiful or ugly
- What are worthwhile goals in life
- Religious beliefs
- Whether a person is in control of his or her own life or whether fate determines one's life
- Common sense
- Our perceived needs
- Whether privacy is desirable or undesirable
- Appropriate health care
- Appropriate personal hygiene
- What is "right, what is "wrong"

TIME

- How is time scheduled and used
- Whether schedules are important or unimportant
- The importance of maintaining tradition
- Whether old age is valuable or undesirable
- The importance of understanding one's history and passing it on

COMMUNICATION

- The language we speak
- What should be said; what should be left unsaid
- What is appropriate "small talk"
- Whom we speak to; to whom we should not speak
- Whether conversation should be formal or informal
- The meaning of hand gestures, facial expressions and other nonverbal communication
- How often we smile, whom we smile at and the meaning of a smile
- In which environments it is "safe" to speak one's mind; in which environments we must censor
- Our tone of voice, use of emotion, use of stories

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