

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mrs. Savino Mulcahy Sociology Period: _____

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Sociology - Culture - You Are Now Weird

"*Our speech, our gestures, our beliefs, and our customs are usually taken for granted. We assume they are 'normal' or 'natural,' and we almost always follow them without question.*"

Ethnocentrism → the use of one's own culture as a yardstick for judging the way of other individuals or societies, generally leading to a negative evaluation of their values, norms, and behaviors

We call this "the Judgment Game." The Judgment Game isn't an official game, but we play it every day.

What are some common judgments made about other ethnicities or races?

Culture → the language, beliefs, values, norms, behaviors, and even material objects that are passed from one generation to the next

What is your culture?

Material culture → the material objects that distinguish a group of people, such as their art, buildings, weapons, utensils, machines, hairstyles, clothing jewelry

What is your material culture?

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Nonmaterial culture → (also called *symbolic culture*) a group's ways of thinking (including its beliefs, values, and other assumptions about the world and doing (its common patterns of behavior, including language and other forms of interaction)

What is your nonmaterial culture?

Culture shock → the disorientation that people experience when they come in contact with a fundamentally different culture and can no longer depend on their taken-for-granted assumptions about life

Creative Writing Assignment: You Are Now Weird

You were abducted by aliens. Aliens extracted all the cultural knowledge contained in your head. It is now an empty void. They put you back in your bed, and as you begin your day, everything about you, what you and everyone around you naturally do (nonmaterial culture) and things that you see (material culture) seem weird. Write a diary entry or narrative on a separate sheet of paper (NEATLY) and staple to this sheet to write about how strange you are now that you know nothing about your culture and discovering it anew!