Mapping Your Cultural Orientation

Individuals demonstrate a wide range of values and preferences across a variety of cultural dimensions. Map your own cultural orientation by placing an X at the spot that most accurately reflects your values on each continuum below. Remember that a continuum represents an infinite number of possibilities between the two opposing ends. There are no right or wrong answers.

Monochronic……Polychronic

I like to be on time and expect the same of others.

What happens is more important than when it starts and ends.

Low Context……High Context

When rules are presented, I prefer that every detail is spelled out clearly.

Some rules are understood by everyone so it's not necessary to spell everything out.

Individualistic……Collectivistic

I prefer to work independently and be recognized individually.

I prefer to work as part of a group and think it's better when individuals are not singled out.

Egalitarian……Hierarchical

All people should be treated the same, no matter what their position is.

People should be treated differently depending on their title, position, rank.

Task Focused……Relationship Focused

When working on a project, I prefer to focus on getting the job done and become impatient with socializing.

When working on a project, I value time spent in building relationships and work better with people when I get to know them.

Surfacing Differences……Maintaining Harmony

I directly address differences when there is an issue so the problem can be solved quickly.

I prefer to deal with differences indirectly, behind the scenes, to avoid causing upset.

Emotionally Restrained……Emotionally Expressive

It's better to keep emotions private

It's better to express emotions openly

Being……Doing

I derive more of my identity from who I am and who my family is

I derive more of my identity from what I do: schoolwork, activities, etc.

Reflection

- How does your cultural orientation map help you in your life?
- How does your cultural orientation map hold you back in your life?
- How is your cultural orientation map similar or different from your peers'?
- Which traits are difficult for you to deal with in other people?

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