



# Embracing Culture in A Virtual Environment

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# Community

A social group who follow a social structure within a society (culture, norms, values, status). They may work together to organise social life within a particular place, or they may be bound by a sense of belonging sustained across time and space.



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UNIVERSITY OF  
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## 2023 Enlightenment Series

### Embracing Culture in a Virtual Environment

Tues., Mar. 21, 2023

Marie Byrd, Ph.D.

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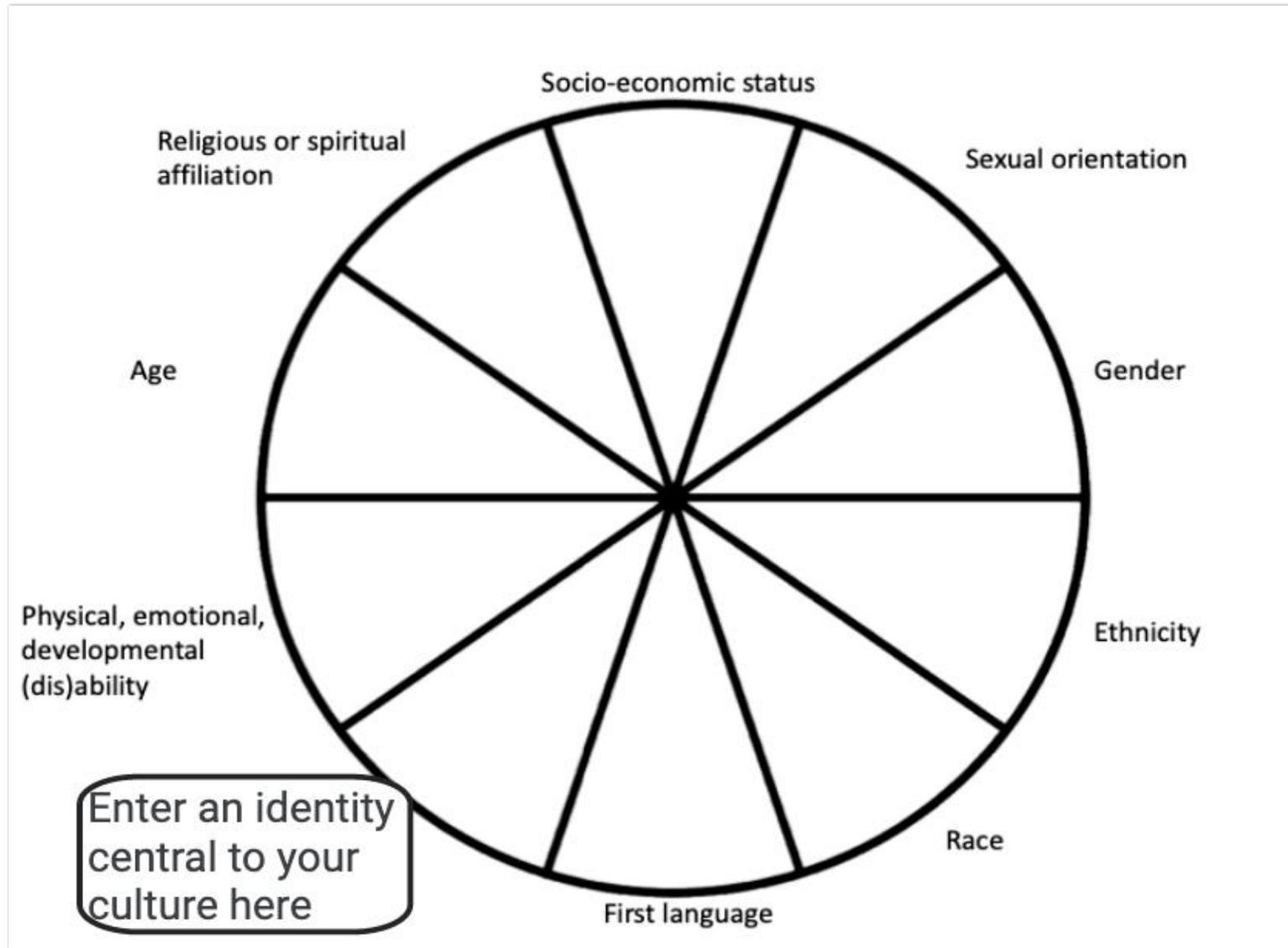
. Ashley Reese, Ph.D.

# Virtual Cultural Representation

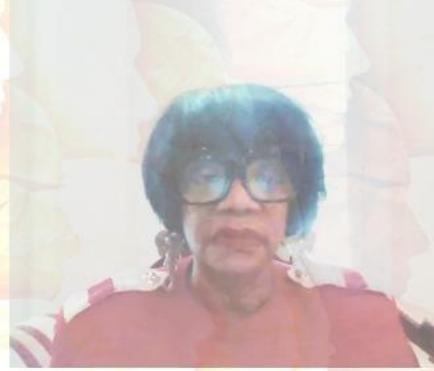


| <u>Virtual Meetings with Colleagues</u>   | <u>Teaching Classes Virtually</u>   |
|---|---|
| <b><u>Presence as Participant:</u></b><br>Camera on<br>Authentic representation | <b><u>Presence as Leader/Facilitator:</u></b><br>Camera on<br>Establish open environment  |
| <b><u>Virtual Presence:</u></b><br>Raising a hand to speak<br>Posting comments  | <b><u>Student Engagement:</u></b><br>Discuss, share, and celebrate varying perspectives<br>Recognize and encourage individual and group cultural representation |

# Social Identity Wheel



# BENEFITS



- **Enhances Self Awareness**
- **Increases Critical and Creative Thinking**
- **Explores Core Values and Motivation**
- **Showcases the Power of Introspection**
- **Cultivates Opportunity for Play and Storytelling**

# WHAT IS CULTURE?

- **Immediate**
- **Accessibility**
- **Functionality**
- **Instant Connectivity**
- **Equity**

# Embracing Culture in a Virtual Classroom

Instructor sets the virtual cultural environment

Share self as an instructor and own culture

Instructor sets the tone:  
open  
professional  
respectful

Groups/Breakout Rooms:  
Share group members' perspectives on topics

Encourage students to turn on cameras.  
Encourage student sharing of identity.

Require student participation via chat (comments; emojis)

Encourage and celebrate the differentiation of perspectives regarding course topics

Reflect on biases in light of culture – relevant to course material / objectives

# Tools for Cultural Engagement



## Flipgrid

Narrative storytelling

Video responses  
(discussion board  
alternative)



## Canva

Infographics

Visual essays



## Images and clip art



## Adobe Spark

Digital storytelling

Infographics

Visual essays

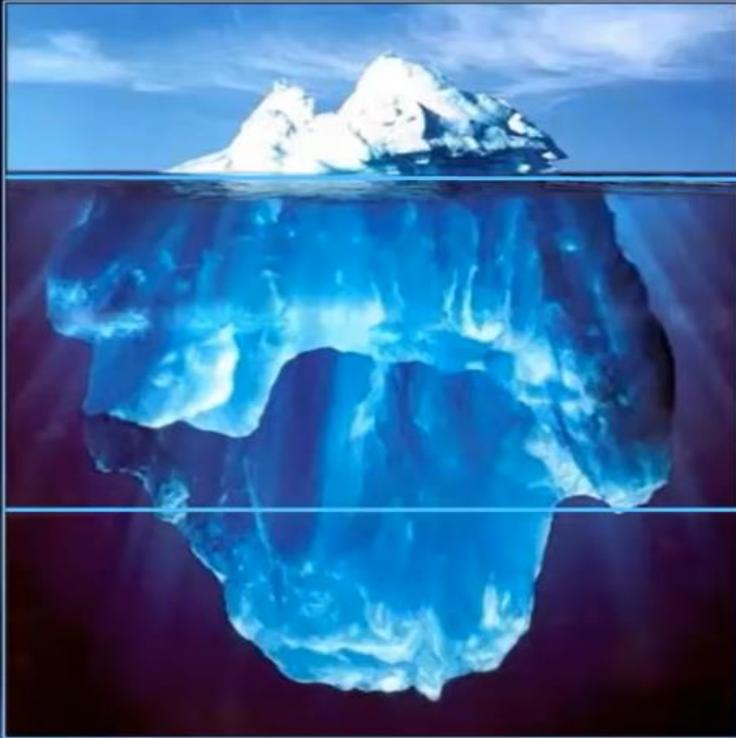
## Example: Digital Storytelling

- ◇ “Identifying the Problem” Assignment
  - ◇ Field trip to local area
  - ◇ Video and pictures
  - ◇ Narration
  - ◇ Research to support claims
  - ◇ Builds to larger research project
  - ◇ Short video – Adobe Spark (free)



# Culture

## Where do we see Culture?



### Artifacts

The way the people act, the things they say, the way they dress, behave, and the items that they surround themselves with

### Values

The articulation of the basic assumptions

### Underlying Assumptions

The deeply buried foundation for the values that the group has formed over time

# Padlet Activity

