Personal Culture Reflection Paper

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I would identify myself with the African American culture. I also describe African American as Black. Growing up I was taught that African Americans are the descendants of slaves. If I were to go down the line of my family history I would be able to say that someone in my family was a slave. Growing up I remember hearing stories from my grandparents and my own parents about what they had to endure growing up. We didn't have many family reunions growing up. I can only remember the one we had eight years ago.

The value of how much family is important is something that I am proud of. Family is big in the African American culture. "It takes a village," was one quote I heard a lot growing up. I was raised by my parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends. I have difficulty understanding, why it is so easy for us to kill our own people. We are supposed to reunite with each other because of how much we had to endure in history. Our ancestors didn't work their lives wanting us to kill each other.

When I was younger, I heard a lot of hateful and hurtful things about my race. I heard we would never amount to anything and we are useless. What little girl who is learning about herself wants to hear those kinds of remarks? I did hear positive things from race and sometimes those positive things would only come from those who share the same race as me. Growing up, it still did not feel the same. I had a better understanding of my self and my culture, but I seen the treatment up close and personal. My culture shares a prejudice against White Americans because of how they treated us before. However, my parents did not discuss race a lot, but I felt like they should have because we moved around a lot. Everywhere I went, my kind was the minority. The statements that were made of other groups that I could remember was that I will experience some racists people of different races, but it should not stop me from pursuing my dreams.

My socioeconomic status growing up was middle class. Both of my parents were in the military for over 20 years. I remember being able to experience and have things that others could not get. When I was younger, middle class, to me, was considered rich. I felt like my parents were on top of the world, until I got older and realized that there was something higher than middle class. I never knew what it was like to be lower class or in poverty growing up. When I moved out on my own with my daughter and my boyfriend, I learned the definition of lower class. I would consider my status as lower class. I have a government job but still would consider myself lower class. I compare the differences between how I grew up and what I'm living now. I was privileged when I was growing up and living with my parents due to their middle-class socioeconomic status.

I would not consider myself have an ability status. I do not have a disability. Some values of my ability status are the ability to do things and not have restrictions. I can do things that those with disabilities cannot. I am privileged to not have a disability that prevents me from working and taking care of myself.

The dominant religious perspective that I grew up and continue to grow with is Christianity. I believe that most African Americans are Christians. Christians believe in God as their higher power. One belief that was taught to me from that religion is that sinful humans can wash away their sins by baptism. Being baptized allows you to reconcile with God and are promised "eternal life." I have been baptized twice, once as a child and once as an adult. I don't question my religion, but one thing I don't agree with is the belief on Homosexuality. I believe that one should love whoever makes them happy. My current beliefs and views on my religion are the same as my original beliefs.

My dad was big on gender roles growing up and even now that I moved out on my own. My dad believed that women should oversee the inhouse work like cooking, cleaning, taking care of the children, and paying the bills. My dad believed that men should be responsible for outside of the house work like, working hard at work, fixtures to the house, cutting grass, fixing cars, and other manly duties. He also believed that it was the man's job to provide and protect for his household. That has stuck with me in my own household. One thing about me is that I tried to learn how to do both, because I consider myself independent. One belief that I do not agree with is how women should only do women things. I think a woman can do anything a man can do. Men see women as emotionally human beings but that is not true. We are very strong people.

Growing up, my mom and dad thought homosexuality were wrong and taught us that it was wrong and a bad thing. They thought that because of our religion. I thought it was wrong growing up until I got older and realized that homosexuality does not affect, hurt, or make me feel disgusted. I grew out of the idea that it was wrong. I viewed homosexuality as I do heterosexuality, Love is Love. We have no right to judge or disown someone because they choose to love the same gender or want to change themselves. They should have equal rights just like those who are heterosexual. My views on homosexuality are still the same. I do not want those who are homosexual to feel like they cannot live a normal life. They should be able to walk around living their true self. Government should not get involved in other people's love life. I feel like that is an area that they should not be involved in. The feeling of love and who someone loves should be up to that person. They should be treated as equals. Homosexuality does hurt us, we hurt Homosexuality.