

Assignment 1 – Think piece

Due date: Section 4: February 1st Section 5: January 28th
Length: 2-3pages, double-spaced, 12pt, times new roman, 1inch margins
References: none necessary
Worth: 2.5%
Submission: through Turnitin.com: paper copies or emailed assignments will NOT be accepted
Late assignment policy:

On due date (or before):	On Grace Day:	The day after:	After that?
+0.5 bonus point (Only for assignments worth 10%+)	No penalty (All Assignments)	-10% penalty (All Assignments)	Zero ☹️ (All Assignments)

General instructions and context

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below. You can number your answers when you write them in your word document.

Different religions have different rationales to explain why disabilities occur and how they reflect on the family. Understanding the cultural perceptions of disabilities held by individual families can greatly improve the functioning of individuals. Psychologists who understand the differences among cultures will reflect that understanding when working with the families of their clients with disabilities. For example, many Pacific Islanders believe that disabilities are the result of an ancestor's wrongdoing with the result being guilt and shame. Some from the Philippines view disabilities as a curse and often reject the individual with the disability. The Chamorro culture holds that a birth defect or a disability is a gift from God, and the individual with the disability is protected and sheltered by everyone in the community. (source: The Iris Centre: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu>)

- 1) Are any of the cultures described above similar to Canadians' attitudes towards disability? In what ways? How are they different?
- 2) If you were the psychologist of a child with a disability, what would be a good plan for working with the child's Pacific Islander family?
- 3) Now suppose that you are a psychologist directing a support group for adolescents with disabilities. One of the adolescents is from a Philippine culture while another is from a Chamorro culture. Describe the different as well as similar ways that you would interact with these students and their families.
- 4) Did you find this assignment easy or challenging? What made it easy/difficult for you?
- 5) If you were a mental health professional (help line, psychologist, coach, social worker, etc.), what cultural groups would you want to know most about? Why?

Grading

You will be graded on the following 5-point scale:

- 5 = meets or exceeds required length; strongly engaged, high-quality exploration.
4 = meets or exceeds required length; meets teacher's expectations for engagement.
3 = high-quality exploration but too short or meets required length but is too superficial
2 or 1: too short and too superficial
0 = not submitted on time or plagiarized