

Self-awareness is the first step towards comprehending intercultural communication. Examining the beliefs, values, and customs that influence one's own worldview is crucial before one can truly appreciate cultural differences. The lessons that have been passed down through the years and my family's origins in Erwinville, Louisiana, have influenced my cultural identity. My personality, communication style, and feeling of respect for others have all been greatly impacted by my upbringing in a close-knit, rural Black community with strong Southern traditions. This self-analysis examines how my personal identification and family history have shaped who I am as a person and communicator today.

Many generations of my relatives have lived in Erwinville, Louisiana, a little rural hometown where my family has significant roots. I am aware that my family is mostly African American, with some Native American blood mixed in, even if I do not know all the specifics of my ancestry. My ancestors most likely arrived in Louisiana many generations ago, and they gradually established a solid foundation of hard work, community, and family values. My family has always treasured a basic, rural lifestyle and lived off the land. Many of our customs, including trail riding, horseback riding, and getting together for cooked dinners, are connected to rural living. Making bread at home is a unique custom that unites people and symbolizes warmth, tolerance, and concern.

These family traditions are more than just activities; they are a reflection of our lifestyle and our bond with one another. Laughter, storytelling, and respect for our elders are common themes at family get-togethers. Everyone in my family is expected to be polite, humble, and willing to lend a hand to others. Respect is lived every day through words and deeds, not just taught. Growing up in Erwinville means being a part of a community where people are familiar

with and supportive of one another. I now have a deep sense of pride in my origins and a sense of belonging thanks to these experiences.

My color, ethnicity, and upbringing in a small Southern town have all influenced my sense of self. With some Native American ancestry, I consider myself to be African American. I've learned to be grounded, polite, and respectful of my culture. Expectations from the community and family both supported these qualities. Greeting one another, being welcoming, and helping when needed were all valued in the community where I grew up. I learned to treat everyone fairly and with kindness, regardless of their identity, even though I did not frequently interact with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

I consider myself to be respectful and well-respected. I strive to put people at ease by being kind and entertaining, and I cherish positive thinking and comedy. My easygoing, laid-back, and respectful communication style is a reflection of my Southern heritage. I like to make people laugh, but I also know when to be serious and respectful. I also developed a strong appreciation for nature, peace, and simplicity as a result of growing up in a rural area. Despite my lack of intercultural experience, I approach every conversation with an open mind because of my foundation of respect and good character.

I consider my cultural identity to be a combination of my personal ideals, my upbringing, and the customs of my family. Hard effort, respect, and a sense of community are the foundations of who I am. My family taught me to be kind to others, to be honest, and to be proud of who I am. These principles still influence my communication and behavior now. These principles have an impact on my relationships with others, conflict resolution, and freedom of expression.

My cultural background is reflected in the way I communicate. When I talk to people, I'm usually kind and thoughtful, utilizing humor to establish rapport and reduce stress. Additionally, I think it's important to listen before speaking and to demonstrate empathy when conversing. These behaviors stem from the expectation that young people behave and speak with respect, as well as from observing how elder family members interact. Despite being from a tiny, largely identical society, I am aware that other cultures have different communication patterns. Understanding my own habits enables me to see how I might need to adapt to cross-cultural circumstances.

I've discovered through this cultural self-analysis that my family's customs and my Erwinville upbringing have significantly influenced my sense of self. I've learned the value of protocol, humor, and respect in communicating from my culture. Additionally, it has strengthened my feelings of identity and community. These characteristics affect how I perceive other people and engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

I am able to talk across cultural boundaries since I am aware of my own cultural origins. Understanding that each person's identity is formed by their circumstances makes me more understanding and tolerant. Despite having a strong Southern and rural upbringing, my cultural background has fostered in me universal qualities like kindness, respect, and authenticity, which enable me to value the diversity of people while remaining loyal to my own identity.