



CULTURAL AWARENESS QUESTIONNAIRE

To promote interaction, increase your awareness, and to help you compare differences and similarities between the host community and your own, we have designed this “Cultural Awareness Questionnaire”. It will help you in obtaining important information on various aspects and activities of members of your home and host communities. In order for you to achieve the maximum desired effect, your written work should be done independently. However, if necessary, you may seek help with your research.

Your home country research must be completed in your natural language and submitted as part of your application. This form will be mailed back to you ninety (90) days after your arrival to the United States, so that you may complete the host country research. The completion deadline will be thirty (30) days from the day that you receive it by mail.

You may use the following resources: host family, community, friends, other host nationals, newspaper, etc. You may also add pictures and postcards. Do not forget to note where you found the information and from where it came.

There are ten topics. Answer each question to the best of your ability. Keep the comparisons between your home country community and your host country community on the same sheet.

Example: Structure each page of your research paper in the format shown below on 8 ½ by 11 inch paper. Each topic should have its own individual page.

Name:	Date:
Home Country:	Host Community:
Topic: Political Structure	
Home Country (Answer)	Host Community (Answer)
A)	A)
B)	B)

Topic 1: Political Structure

- a. What form of government presides at the local and national levels?
- b. How many political parties exist at the national level and which are the most predominant?

Topic 2: Economic Structure

- a. What types of job opportunities exist for the general public? Is the process of obtaining employment generally easy or difficult?
- b. What is the minimum wage paid? How often do workers get paid (hourly/weekly/monthly)? What is the average salary for policemen, teachers, and doctors?

Topic 3: Folklore and History

- a. Are there annual festivals and traditional events of importance in your community? Describe them and their significance.
- b. Name an important historical figure who impacted your community or region. Explain his or her significance and why you feel this contribution was important.

Topic 4: Religion

- a. How important a role does religion play in your community?
- b. What is the most predominant religion in your region and what do they practice?

Topic 5: Social Relations

- a. In the immediate family, who is considered primary authoritarian? What is the commonly accepted age that children live their parents' home to live independently?
- b. What determines social status among groups of people? Are there differences in attitudes expressed by varying classes? Explain.

Topic 6: Major Concerns

- a. What prevailing national issue concerns the local community?
- b. In general, are local people knowledgeable in respect to global issues?

Topic 7: Geography

- a. Describe the location, climate, and landscape of the region.
- b. What types of benefits come from this type of geographic area? (ex: agriculture, manufacturing, etc.)

Topic 8: Architecture

- a. What are the predominant styles of construction in the local community?
- b. What building materials are most commonly used in the construction of homes? Explain.

Topic 9: Art and Culture

- a. Are there any famous artists, musicians, writers, or actors from the local community who are known nationally? Explain.
- b. What is the most predominant cultural aspect of the community?

Topic 10: Recreation and Sports

- a. What types of recreational activities are available for kids and adults?
- b. Are there local athletes who are recognized at the national level? Who are they and what have they accomplished in their sport?