

1. Reflection Response

Individualist cultures are generally wealthier than communal cultures in per-capita income and relevant standard of living. They also have proportionately larger middle-class populations.

A. What do you think might be the reasons for this?

-I believe that striving for personal wealth motivates humans more than striving for communal wealth. In my opinion, people are much more concerned with advancing their own lives and the lives of their families above all else. When it comes down to it, people would sell their community if it meant they could get ahead in life. When I really think about what my "community" means to me, I honestly struggle to see any genuine connection I have. This statement coming from me probably is reflected in most of my peers, as well. There is no incentive to think of your community before yourself in America. I realize this is much different in other cultures, but as for Reno, Nevada, we are all doing our own thing and do not have time to think about our community as a whole.

B. How might a highly communal society protect against freeloaders?

-Communal societies can protect against freeloaders by having very clear outlines of what members or groups of members are responsible for. If responsibilities to your group or community are made clear from birth and driven into the minds of the youth, it will lead to a more productive society overall.

C. How might a highly individualistic society protect its weakest members?

-Having policies that promote anti-discrimination in society and the workplace is a good way to avoid a lack of diversity and promote weaker members. Another way is to have government programs in place like social security and unemployment pay. Both of these ensure that people can have access to income when they would otherwise not, meaning they can continue to contribute to society.

2. Reflection Response

In the United States we use the concept of punctuality as one criterion for establishing virtue. Being late, for example, is considered rude because it shows that you believe your time is more valuable than another's. This is closely tied to the high value we place on hard work, as demonstrated in the phrase "Time is money."

A. How does the way you spend your time reflect your personal values? Give an example from your life to support your answer.

-I spend a lot of my time at work and working out. I would say that the majority of my time is spent doing these two things. I come from a very average-income family, so I have had to fend for myself when it comes to a majority of financial aspects during the course of my life. So, not working during school has never really been an option. I think this is a very good thing that I was forced to do. It has propelled me into a very secure spot in my life, and I could not be more thankful for the hard work I have put in. When it comes to taking care of my physical health, this has been a part of my life ever since I started playing baseball at age 5. I care a lot about my physical well being, so the time spent at the gym and being active reflects that care.

B. Are you habitually on time? or often late? How does this reflect your personal values?

-I am essentially always on time or at least 5 minutes early. This is a result of playing baseball my entire life where I was taught that 15 minutes early is on time. However, I have come to appreciate this about myself. People who are always late are seen as disrespectful in my eyes. It really does not take a lot of effort to show up to places on time, so when I am around people who can't seem to figure it out, I judge them harshly for it. I know this is a bit ironic considering I am turning in this assignment late, but I promise this is a rarity!