

Soft Skills for the School Librarian • Developing Cultural Competence

## Writing a Cultural Autobiography

As a first step toward building your cultural competency, reflect on your own experience. Consider the following nine attributes of culture: gender, ethnicity/nationality, language, social class, geographic location, race, religion/spirituality, health status, age.

How are they evident in your life? In what ways have they influenced your life trajectory and your day-to-day interactions and experiences? What particular stories can you call up to illustrate their influence on you? How have the communities you've been a part of reflected your culture back to you? How have your upbringing and subsequent life stages shaped how you think about your culture across these attributes?

### My Cultural Autobiography

**For more ideas on writing a cultural autobiography, see:**

“Cultural Autobiographical Paper.” *EDUC M322 Assignments*, Indiana University School of Education, 2015. <https://iu.instructure.com/courses/1484735/assignments/5826225>.

Beyerbach, Barbara. “Culturally Relevant Teaching.” *EDU 380*, Oswego State University of New York, 2018. <https://sites.google.com/a/oswego.edu/beyerbach/edu-380>.

“Cultural Competence Self-Assessment Checklist.” Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society, Immigrant Welcome Centre, 2015.  
<http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/cultural-competence-self-assessment-checklist.pdf>.