

**Discussion Questions #2**

Write down:

- 1) your thoughts and answers to 2 discussion questions
- 2) an original discussion question related to the topic that you could discuss with the class, and
- 3) an “interview question” relevant to the material that would be appropriate to ask someone of another culture to gain more insight into or information about the topic –OR– an unresolved question that occurred to you during the reading that you would like to know the answer to.

Submit the typed assignment on Blackboard and bring a copy to class.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Is a self-concept consistent and stable across a lifespan or are there time periods or events that are likely to create change? When will people have an independent versus interdependent view of the self?
2. What is the difference between friendship in the United States versus other countries? What aspect of culture is the concept of friendship most influenced by?
3. What English phrases can you think of that describe someone who is inconsistent (e.g., a “flip-flopper”)? Why would consistency be valued in a culture – what’s the difference between that culture and another who is not concerned with consistency?
4. So sometimes people have memories of themselves as the subject but sometimes they are the object (subjective and objective self-awareness). What is interesting about that?
5. What are the consequences throughout a lifetime of having an incremental theory of self or an entity theory of self? Which theory of self would you rather encourage in your children?
6. (If you know about other definitions or theories of personality besides the Five Factor Model of Personality) Are there definitions or theories of personality that would be more useful to use when studying multiple cultures?

## PSY132 Topic 2: Self & Personality

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Define self-concept
2. Describe the distinction between independent and interdependent views of the self
3. Define the dimensions used to study cultural differences (individualism, collectivism, power distance, uncertainty avoidance, vertical-horizontal social structure, context-dependence)
4. Describe the different ways that we see the motivation for consistency across cultures
5. Describe how self-concept affects your memory, emotion, motivation, and relationships
6. Understand the current state of studying personality in various cultures

**Optional** – you may use these questions to guide you and focus your attention on important topics during reading. They do not need to be turned in.

### Reading Questions

#### **Chapter 5 Self and Personality**

1. How is a self-concept different if you have an independent versus an interdependent view of self?
2. What is the distribution of individualistic and collectivistic societies around the country? And why does that matter for the field of psychology?
3. What are the different cultural factors that seem to influence perceptions of gender roles?
4. What are the different cultural factors that seem to influence perceptions of gender identity?
5. What kind of evidence do we see that people want to be consistent across cultures? How is “consistency” different depending on the motivations of the individual?
6. What is the difference between subjective and objective self-awareness?
7. Describe entity and incremental theories of the self and explain their relationship to education outcomes cross-culturally.
8. How does the Five Factor Model of Personality define and measure personality?
9. What evidence supports the idea that the Five Factor Model of Personality can be applied cross-culturally and what evidence suggests that it doesn’t capture personality in various cultures?