

Diversity Culture Reflection Assignment

Health Communication (COME327A)

1.

A middle aged man of Anglo-Saxon decent would have the most advantages in the western health care system. In fact, someone who fits this description is unlikely to have to face any of the usual discriminatory behavior that other people might. An able – bodied white male would not have to feel as pressured to defer to the health official's authority due to being too young or too old. Additionally, he would not have to conform to any other standards other than the patriarchal society that is made up predominately of people that look like him.

On the other hand, a physically disabled, elderly black woman would have none of these advantages and instead have to deal with several disadvantages instead. The women's disability could potentially lead into situations of ableism from the health official. On that same note, the women's age could lead to the health official writing off her concerns as that of a forgetful and easily agitated old women (even though the woman is only physically disabled). And finally, black women on average experience more healthcare issues than almost any other group.

2. Choose a cultural group from this list: African American, Asian, Hispanic, Arab, Native American, Latino. Highlight the group you have chosen.

3.

To almost all of the Native peoples that have inhabited the continent of North America for thousands of years, the natural world is sacred. Everything in their life is connected to nature, from the religions, lifestyles, and traditions. This reverence of nature is especially interconnected to their view on health. In native's cultures, healing is considered a sacred act, and in every village, there should also be a healer. Healers are held in high respect to these societies and considered highly important, and anyone is called into the practice of healing, they must use their abilities to help others.

b.

Native Americans are brought up in their own culture that is very much underrepresented in modern culture – or just as often – misrepresented. This means that health care practitioners often have no idea how to properly engage with them. This can lead to a serious disconnect between patients and healthcare workers.

c.

In an article featured on the American Bar Association website, author Mary Smith provides a look one of the agencies that helps Native Americans, an shows how pocily changes in recent years have jeopardized it. She writes: “The Indian Health Service (IHS)—an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—provides care to over 2.2 million Native Americans across the country. Although IHS fulfills treaty responsibilities to provide health care for members of more than 560 recognized tribes, Congress has consistently

underfunded the agency, forcing hospital administrators to limit the services offered.” This decision to pull back funding means that to match the care provided to federal prisoners, Native health care funding would have to *double*.

4.

Health care in this country seems like it only truly works out perfectly for a very small percentage of those in the country it is supposed to help. While there are lives saved every day, there are even more people who fall through the cracks unnecessarily. In my examples, I provided 3 different groups of people. The examples I gave were a middle-aged Caucasian male of able body, an elderly black woman with a physical disability, and a Native American of any age of gender. There were multiple examples of both differences and similarities shared between the two groups, but in the end, only one group could truly be considered to have above adequate representation. In terms of commonality, the white-middle aged man has much less in common to the others than the elderly black women in a wheelchair or a Native American. Both Native American and Black community members suffer more health complications and in greater numbers than white communities. This conclusion seems to support the idea that one’s socioeconomic status can dramatically impact their healthcare experiences.

However, one main theme seems to be gender. In every one of the different racial groups chosen for the assignment, women are underrepresented more than men are. The concept of intersectionality theory states that one’s social position emerges from intersecting of personal identities and sociocultural patterns. Using this theory, one can begin to see the alarming gap in

health care experiences a white man and a minority woman can have, even though the healthcare system is supposed to be able to help everyone.