

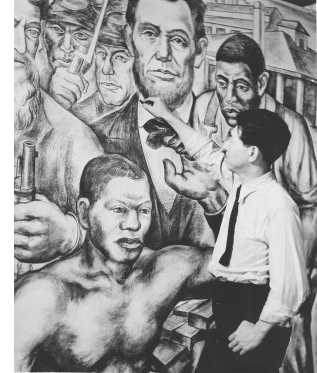
HAND OUT

Lesson 3. Beginning the Cultural Conversation

At this point, we return to our first set of essential questions: What is culture? How do various individuals, communities, and groups describe the characteristics of “culture”? Also, consider two related subquestions:

- What are characteristics of culture? How do these characteristics influence and contribute to culture?
- When are cultural characteristics considered positive, and when are they considered negative?

You are going to use your abilities as a critical reader to explore an article by Katie Soe, “The Great Cultural Divide: Multiethnic Teens Struggle With Self-Identity, Perceptions.” As you read, we want you to consider Soe’s perspective, and to make connections to your own cultural experience.



Archives of American Art,
Eitaro Ishigaki

Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Activity 1: Reading Strategy Review

Discussion Review: What reading strategies do we already know and use? In teams, write a list of at least six strategies you can use when wrestling with a challenging text.

Activity 2: Close Reading of “The Great Cultural Divide”

Group leader: Copy and paste the text from “The Great Cultural Divide” into a new Google Doc and share with your group.

Group reader: Read the article aloud as everyone else will use the commenting and highlighting tools to take notes on the reading. Every group member should highlight at least three important points from the article and include at least one comment.

Summarize: After your group discusses the article, capture notes and write a four- to five-sentence summary of what your team identifies as the key ideas of this article. Also, include at least one question that still remains for your group. Post the summary to our online class space for Lesson 3.

Activity 3: Reflection

Individually, please write a brief reflection on Soe’s article. How do you relate to her argument that “because people have different ideas about how ethnicity should be expressed, this can be a source of frustration and disappointment”? Do you agree or disagree? Why?