Cultural Inventory[1]

This assignment is designed to increase your awareness of your own cultural background and further explore how your experiences and beliefs impact your way of being in the world, and how that effects your professional practice in education.

Please review all the following questions and select a minimum of four (4) to write about (you can absolutely select *more* than four if you wish).

Address the questions and include your thoughts about how your social location will impact your work as you move into the education profession. For example: What difficulties do you see yourself having with curriculum requirements given your overall social location? What student group do you feel the least prepared to work with or the least equipped to advocate for in any given situation?

Format: Approximately 5-6 pages, double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, standard margins. Include an introduction and a conclusion. Content, writing style, spelling, and grammar will be considered in grading. This is your historical information, experiences, thoughts, ideas, and opinions – do not use other people's ideas. Use your critical thinking skills to explore each area you have chosen in depth. You do not need to use outside resources, but if you choose to, you must cite them using APA format.

1. Into what social and economic class were you born? What messages have you received about people in your social class? What messages have you received about people who are not in your social class? What defines which social class someone is in in America?

2. Into what region or geographical section of the U.S. or world were you born? What messages have you received about people from this region or geographical area? How do those messages contrast with messages about people from other regions or geographical areas?

3. Into what kind of community (urban, suburban, or rural) were you born and raised? How did this experience of community influence how you see the world? What blind spots might it have created for you?

4. What is your gender? What is your gender expression? Does your gender expression match the expected gender expression for someone of your gender? How does context influence your gender expression? What messages have you received about your gender? What messages have you received about other genders?

5. What is your sexual orientation? What messages have you received about your sexual orientation? About sexual orientations other than your own? How often do you think of yourself in terms of your sexual orientation? In what ways has your sexual orientation shaped how you view ideas of family? Relationships? Friendships?

6. What term or terms do you use to identify your race/ethnicity? What messages have you received about this naming? What connotations does your race/ethnicity have in the larger society? How often do you think of yourself in terms of your race/ethnicity? How has your race/ethnicity shaped how you are in the world?

[1] Adapted from: https://www.csuchico.edu/swrk/_assets/documents/app21mswembeddedassignments.pdf

7. What was the linguistic environment into which you were born? Monolingual, bilingual, multilingual? How did this impact you? How does your linguistic ability enhance or limit your life?

8. What is your age? What messages have you received about people of this age? What messages have you received about people who are younger than yourself? Older than yourself? What thoughts do you have about aging?

9. What are your physical and intellectual abilities? What messages have you received about people with these abilities? What messages have you received about people who are less physically able than yourself? More physically able than yourself? How about people who are less intellectually able? More intellectually able?

10. What are your religious or spiritual beliefs or worldview if you do not identify with religion or spirituality? What are three key messages you carry about these beliefs? What messages have you received about people who are from or practice these beliefs? How do those beliefs shape how you view people who have religious or spiritual beliefs that are different than yours? How do these beliefs shape your ideas about right and wrong, good, and bad?

11. What is your political ideology? What messages have you received about this ideology? What challenges does your political ideology pose for you when you encounter someone who disagrees with you politically? How free do you feel to express yourself politically? How do your political beliefs converge and diverge from the ethics of social work?

12. Some people consider themselves bicultural. To what extent do you have a dual perspective? Which of the two views has greater weight with you? How does context influence which view is in the foreground, and which is in the background? To what extent are there conflicts between these cultures? How are these conflicts resolved internally? What is the behavioral result of that negotiation?