

Alexandra Ross

COMM100

Identity and Culture Paper

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*An Insight of My Life*

My name is Alexandra Ross, I am an extrovert with many unique personality attributes. For example, I am honest, loyal, compassionate, and neurotic. I do not trust people easily and normally set high boundaries but, I'm very sociable. I am currently in college but attended Garrettford Elementary, Drexel Hill Middle School, and Upper Darby High School. Through the years I've managed to make two life-long best friends, Maddy and Ryan as well as many others. I inherited these traits along with my cultural identity from my parents. My mother is mostly German, and Irish who comes from a large family. While my father is German, Polish, and a hint of Irish deriving from a dysfunctional family. They divorced when I was in 9th grade and do not communicate. I was born and raised in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, but my family moved to Upper Darby, Pennsylvania when I was 15 years old. We lived in a small row-home in a suburban area, with tons of children in the neighborhood to a quiet, twin house. For a living, I nanny mostly all ages but I currently care for a 1 year old. I enjoy caring for people, creating art, and spending time with my family. Growing up, my parents attempted to shape us to be strong, powerful, and fit into society. I was raised to value education, independence, and achievement. My mother also valued traditions originating from when she was a child. For example, my family celebrates and always has a home-cooked family dinner for each holiday. The dinners consist of their specific

traditional foods and praying! For thanksgiving, we pray and say something and someone we're thankful for. Then, collide our glasses of sparkling cider together and eat. Our meal is turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and dessert. Then, comes Christmas when we decorate with lights, put up the Christmas tree, and hang stockings over the fireplace. During this dinner, prayer is generally longer and led by one person. We discuss our blessings and worship the loved ones we've lost. When it's time for dinner we have prime rib, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables and pies. Easter is also celebrated within my family and my grandma has an ancient tradition. She gives each of her grandchildren a chocolate egg with their name printed on the front in cursive with icing. This dinner is composed of ham, cabbage, potatoes, vegetables, and cake. These traditions have been apart of my family forever. Similar to traditions, we're very tall and athletic people. Being 6 foot tall I have an advantage on sports and life. I participated in recreational and competitive cheerleading, softball and pole vaulting. The height and sports influenced many of my decisions, and helped shape me to become who I am. I learned my culture through enculturation which is how a person identifies with the cultures world-view, behaviors, language, morals, and ways of thinking. For example, it was mandatory I did my own laundry when I was young. Not only to teach me a new skill but, responsibility and independence. Hofstede's cultural dimension of Individualism-collectivism mainly applies to my culture. I live in an individualist society where we value independence, privacy, freedom and people's opinions. Whereas in a collective society they conform, serve cohesive groups, and opinions don't matter. Like society, culture differs amongst all people along with its language and meanings. These could range from gestures and personal space to touch behavior. One nonverbal cue specific to my culture is the personal space we keep within each other while

conversing. We have little body contact and are more reserved. To conclude, culture majorly affects my interpersonal communication immensely. Generationally, it binds my family and I by tradition, values, and religion.