



Exploring Culture and Language

High 5's commitment to fostering meaningful and important conversations about the names and terms we use for challenge course elements, products (such as Ubuntu cards), activities, and more is ongoing. We welcome others to engage in dialogue and reflection related to their use of language and the exchange between different cultures. Below is a resource we use to guide our internal discussions; we have adapted them to share with you.



Culture Dialogue

The following is a dialog framework designed to inspire thoughts and conversations about culture and the exchange (or appropriation) of cultural elements between groups of people.

Guidelines for Group Discussion

- Honor confidentiality: What is shared in a group setting will not be brought into other spaces by anyone other than the original sharer.
- Scope: Everyone is welcome to speak to the various places you connect with culture (ex. work/school spaces, home, earlier on in your life, today, etc.)
- Not all questions need to be answered or moved through in sequential order.
- *[Anything else the group wants to add and agrees upon . . .]*

Conversation Prompts:

1. What does the term "culture" mean?
2. What are some features you think of when describing a culture you grew up in?



3. Culture, Values, Norms, Expectations, Traditions, Rules: How are these terms the same and/or different?
4. Who decides how cultures form and how they evolve?
5. What aspects of cultural exchange and/or cultural appropriation are unclear or need further explanation for you?
6. How are power dynamics at play when pieces of culture shift between groups?
7. What are the benefits and harms of tapping into other cultures?
8. How can we learn and share between cultures without causing harm?

Additional Resources

- Learn more about the philosophy and history of Ubuntu by reading DEI Outdoor's **Ubuntu - Origin and Meaning Summary of [research and findings](#)**.
- A supportive resource for question generation: University of Maryland's Office of Diversity & Inclusion Cultural Appropriation Tipsheet linked [here](#).