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Professor

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Composition of a Person

What defines cultural narrative? Both culture — the environment a person is surrounded by — and narrative — the way a person perceives their environment — play a big role both separately and combined in order to influence their personal life. Cultural narrative is a composition of a person's culture and narrative, by creating characteristics that are uniquely specific and form how life is viewed and experienced by the person. When it comes to understanding where someone comes from and their ideologies that they support, it is important to keep cultural narrative in mind. This can be affected by a variety of factors such as biological parents, ethnicity/race, religion, and social norms. A cultural narrative defines a person and the understanding of narrative itself will define how well a person can acknowledge other's differences.

Although cultural narrative is seen as something specific to a person, a narrative place can also play a big role. A narrative of a place is the history and surroundings and how that makes not only the environment different but also the people who live in the area different. For example, someone who grew up in a developing nation and always worried about money and health care will have different ideologies compared to someone who grew up in a developed country and never had to worry about necessities. Both people could be born the same year, but

both will also generate different world views based on how they perceive life from where they were raised.

When trying to understand how one's cultural narrative is formed it is important to look at how simple everyday variables can change a person's narrative. When looking at this from a micro-level one may notice how a person mimics their parent's mannerisms, revealing how greatly of an influence parents may have on a child. A person's ethnicity may define them as well, for instance being a person of color or minority will experience a different world than a person that is not of color and is part of the majority. This is the same for religion, when one practices certain moral ethics, they may be different than another person who practices a totally different set of moral ethics. Though both people believe life should be lived a particular way neither is wrong, there is just a difference in perspective. Another major factor that seems to be more relevant in a world of social media are social norms. Through various platforms more people are exposed to different lifestyles and experiences which can greatly impact their cultural narrative. This may influence how a person believes they should live/view life, particularly lifestyle influencers who create content dictating how to live life in order to be productive.

Lastly, through my experience in converse I have stood by my personal belief of what one's cultural narrative is and more specifically how it is formed. Through these past months in Converse, I have had the pleasure of connecting with fellow classmates and hearing about their background through multiple conversations. Getting to know my classmates in a personal level allowed me to better understand their cultural narrative and give myself a better understanding of self-awareness. I have always practiced self-awareness but being in a supporting community like Converse has improved my skills greatly when it comes to accepting people and recognizing

their beliefs as relevant. Through this I have been able to grow my own cultural/self-narrative by learning from other's experiences and opening myself to different environments.

To conclude, cultural narrative is an important concept to explore. Through this you are able to become more open minded to the world, which is important in a society that has become polarized. People tend to believe that you should surround yourself with like-minded people, but through considering the different amounts of perspectives and being open to what others have to say, a person can truly grow and learn. Lastly, understanding narrative itself will begin the process of better understanding people who make not believe the same things you do.