

	Characteristics of Dominant American Culture	Characteristics of Non-dominant American Culture
Social history	Individualism--emphasizes independence*	Collectivism--emphasizes inter-dependence
Worldview	Western—Anglo-Saxon Northern European	Non-western
Main orientation to	Objects	People
Relationships	Egalitarian	Hierarchical--respect for tradition & authority
Child-development	Primarily an individual matter (ala Piaget)—it happens in stages & is the same for everyone	Primarily a social matter--takes different paths depending on the goals of child rearing in a particular community
Parents define & place value on early cognitive development in terms of child's:	Knowledge of the physical world (defining/describing objects) & linguistic communication skills	Development of social intelligence—interpersonal relationships, responsibility for others, & cooperation
Conceptualizations of intelligence	An intelligent child is one who is aggressive and competitive	An intelligent child may be one who knows how to complete chores for family
Parental communications Emphasize	Distal modes of communication through linguistic means	Proximal modes of communication such as touching and holding
School's emphasis on developing each child's potential	Views this as normal & healthy for development	May perceive this as encouraging undesirable selfishness
Classroom learning style	Prefer to work alone—in some cases, asking for help is a sign of weakness	Prefer to work in groups & to "seek out class-mates & teachers for discussion, clarification, elaboration, & aid"

From: "Cultural Values in Learning and Education" (Trumbull, Greenfield & Quiroz, 2003)

*A study by Geert Hofstede of 53 countries across 5 continents found the US to be the most individualist country in along a continuum of individualism versus collectivism. (Kozulin.2003).

From: Can Democratic Education Be Universalized? I think therefore I am vs. I am because we are <https://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Can-democratic-education-be-universalized.pdf>

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