



**ABC 2023:**

MY FAVORITE ASSIGNMENT

**YES...AND:**  
**IMPROV TO IMPROVE CULTURAL  
CONNECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM**

*Presented by:*

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# Building Successful Intercultural Classrooms

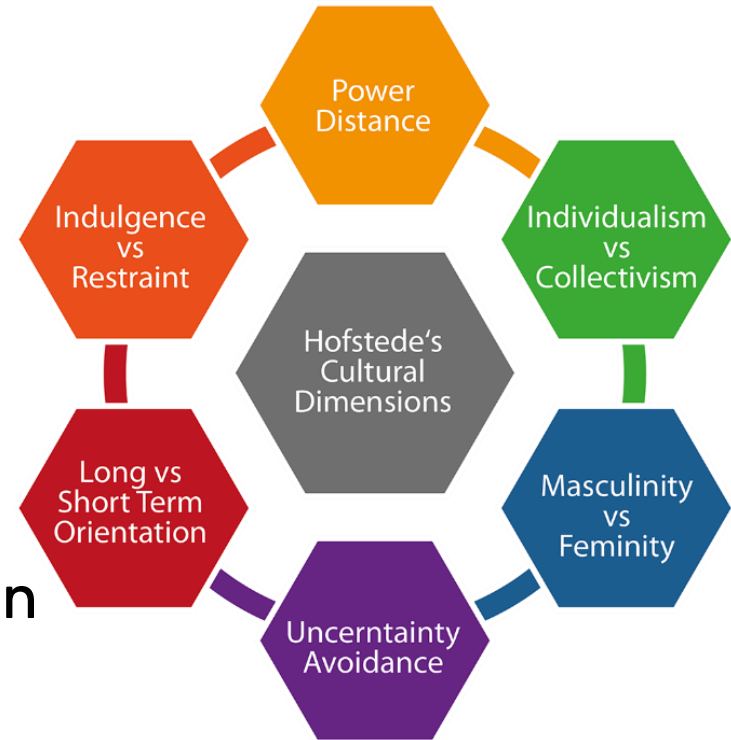
## Learning Goals:

- Embrace cultural differences and be curious about other cultures.
- Learn, appreciate, and build friendships with people from cultures different from your own.
- Become comfortable enough with each other to form a co-culture.
- Develop mindset that together you are creating something new from the best practices of one another's cultures.



# Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Theory (Adapted)

- Power Distance
- Individualism vs Collectivism
- Masculinity vs Femininity
- Uncertainty Avoidance
- Long vs Short Term Orientation
- Indulgence vs Restraint



Source: <https://www.hofstede-insights.com/intercultural-management>



# “Yes...And”

## IMPROVISATIONAL CONCEPT:

- Promotes collaboration
- Allows participants to build on each other's ideas
- No dismissal or negating of ideas.

## OBJECTIVE:

- Invite students to share their cultural backgrounds, identities, or values.
- Get students talking to better understand what makes them unique and what commonalities they share.



# Directions for Students

## Purpose:

- Rooted in improv concept “yes...and”
- Opportunity to learn about classmates
- Share aspects of your cultural identity
- Build classroom community

## How the activity will work:

- There are 5 rounds & 5 prompts.
- In each round, you will be randomly placed in a group with 4 classmates.
- Begin to answer the prompt as soon as it is shared.
- Continue until everyone in your group has a chance to share.
- The next round will begin with a new prompt and 4 new classmates.
- We will do one practice round to help you with the “yes...and” technique.

A large group debrief will follow the end of the last round.

## **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Listen and collaborate
- Acknowledge the info your classmate has shared
- Share your response to the same prompt



# Activity Prompt Examples:

1. Share your family name and where it comes from.
2. Does communication in your culture happen more directly or indirectly?
3. Talk about a traditional family or birthday celebration.
4. Describe how decisions are usually made.
5. Share a common saying, idiom, or metaphor from your culture (for example, “time is money,” “spill the beans,” “under the weather.”)
6. Share a popular food or favorite dish from your culture.
7. Tell us about a popular national holiday.
8. Traditionally, is there a greater emphasis on results and financial gain in your culture, or are relationships more highly valued?



# Debrief Questions:

- What things did you have in common with your groupmates?
- What was the most surprising thing that was shared?
- How did you feel about what you shared?
- How might what you learned today help a team be more cohesive?
- Why is it important to be curious and open-minded?



# Sample Reflection Prompts:

- What are some ways that individual and cultural differences might impact a group's ability to work together?
- How can you carry over what you learned in this activity to your interactions with your group?
- How can you welcome group members to feel comfortable sharing their cultural identities and influences as you work together?
- What questions would you add to this activity?






# Additional Questions Suggested by Students (reflection prompt):

- What hobbies do you have that are influenced by your culture?
- Describe your “hometown.”
- Do you have a strong community within your culture?
- What is your favorite thing about your culture?
- Share a cultural event that shaped who you are today.
- Do you feel comfortable sharing your cultural heritage here (at college)?
- How does your culture affect your outlook on life?





“[The yes...and] approach allows each participant in a group to contribute successfully to an idea or discussion, offering a safe playing ground where all thoughts are accepted and propelled forward without judgement.”

*Kidscape Productions,  
2023*

# Thank you!

