

WORLDVIEWS

“Worldview as presented here is shaped by our individual and collectively held *narrative* (the story of who we perceive ourselves to be in the world around us). Worldview is an overall term embracing deeply held and often uninspected values and beliefs—assumptions collectively held by *culture* as self-evident. It includes the *culture’s narrative* about the nature of reality—including the nature of spirituality, humankind, the universe, the relationships between them, and our place in the world.”

The mid-1900’s American Core

In the mid-1900’s, Cora DuBois of Harvard University proposed a succinct statement of the ‘*Dominant Value Profile of American Culture*’ (1232-39). It included four basic principles:

1. The universe is mechanistically conceived
2. Man is master of the universe
3. Men are equal
4. Men are perfectible

Basic USA Values

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| a) Personal control over environment | b) Materialism/Acquisition | c) Change seen as natural and positive |
| d) Time and the control of time | e) Time objectified as a “commodity” | f) Individualism/Independence |
| g) Future orientation (vs here-and-now) | h) Competition | i) Equality/Fairness (Espoused equity) |
| j) Informality | k) Practicality | l) Self-Help/Initiative |
| m) Action/Work oriented | n) Directness/Openness/Honesty | o) Efficiency |

Two Types of Societies

<u>Individualistic</u>	<u>Collectivist</u>
Dominant over nature	Equal to nature
Control over environment	Harmony with environment
Individual over group	Group over individual
Nuclear family	Extended family
Independent, autonomous, self-sufficient	Interdependent, part of the group, cooperative
Personal control	Controlled by the collective
Linear communications (cause-effect, chains)	Circular/Non-linear (develop context around main pts)
Intellectual orientation	Relational orientation
Direct (verbal)	Indirect (non-verbal, signal systems, stories)
Procedural	Personal
Time oriented	Event oriented
Assertiveness, aggressive	Invitational, waits to be invited

Tips for non-Native clinicians working with Native American clients

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| a) Don’t under-estimate historical and generational trauma | b) Many urban Indians suffer from severe identity confusion | c) Don’t ignore culture (or overdo it). It’s okay to ask questions |
| d) Be a learner and listener—it is received as respectful | e) Don’t under-estimate class issues | f) Native people don’t expect Non-Native people to already know |
| g) Learn to recognize “invisible” agency barriers | h) Explore their cultural participation during upbringing | i) Be cognizant of the power and privilege differential |
| j) Build rapport. This, as you know, <i>is</i> part of the clinical work and is especially important here | k) Ask about tribal membership and regional ties, including family connections | l) Understand that being bi-cultural is not optional for Native people as it may be for the dominant culture |

SOURCES:

1. “*Creating Understanding*,” (1992) Donald K. Smith,
2. CO-575, Dr. Jeff King, Creek Nation