Read the Explanations of cultural variables on pages 94 and 95.

Write your answers to the following questions:

1. Are you more individualistic or more group-oriented? Give an example of something you do which shows this orientation.

I prefer to work with 1 other person. In computer science we call this extreme developing. People have found that this is the most efficient way to develop software because when mistakes are made you always know who is responsible. Both parties can then of course work on their own part of the project, then “merge” their changes.

2. Is there a great or small distance between your personal and your work or school life? Give an example.

I work with or have worked with in the past many of the people I surround myself with outside of school. I know many of the computer scientists and enjoy their company; we are a pretty tight bunch. School has always been a gateway to making friends just as much as it is learning the skills you need for the real world (and some you don’t).

3. Do you feel that people should respect each other's rank or title? Give an example of how you respect or close the distance between ranks.

This is a fairly ambiguous question; which ranks or titles are you referring to? There are many different types of ranks or titles; I respect those with Doctorate degrees. They spent many years working for that title. I respect the difference between miss and mistress, because two people worked hard at developing a relationship that turned into a marriage. I respect the difference in lower, middle, and upper class generally because people have to work to be a part of that society. If you are born into being poor or rich, you have to work to get ahead or be smart enough to stay on top. Ranks in the military should also be respected because they provide a service that many of us cannot.

4. Is truth universal or relative? Why or why not? Name a truth and state how it is universal or relative.

I believe it depends on the truth. Obviously truth like God exists is relative to the religion and part of the world. A truth like the Theory of Relativity has its own criticizers. However, a truth like dogs are man’s best friend is accepted all over the world. I would say truth is more often relative than universal.

5. Are you from a low-context or high-context culture? Do you like explicit, detailed instructions, or do you like general guidelines? Poetry or lab reports? Why?

As a computer scientist, I am used to have very technical instructions laid out for me. However, as someone who has worked in the industry there is something to be said for having general guidelines and being able to express creativity. When I was working for Red Pepper Solutions, as I mentioned in my last assignment, I had guidelines and generally the work got done efficiently and creatively; we were able to present websites well beyond our client’s expectations because of these guidelines. I would most certainly choose lab reports over poetry.

6. Certainty or uncertainty? Would you prefer to work for a company that follows precise procedures or a company that has a vision statement and general guidelines? Why?

I prefer a company that follows a precise procedure. Once again I can apply my personal experience in this area. I have worked for companies of both types and I know that one that follows a procedure is a lot more likely to do well in their endeavors. I feel like general guidelines work more for a very small group of employees because everyone is there to do exactly what they intend to do and take the company where it needs to go. However, for a company that is large and intends to expand, there needs to be a solid foundation of how it runs; it should be a well structured machine.