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Cultural backgrounds and experience could play major parts in how one learns information and views the world. I found the Ted Talk video very interesting where the speaker describes how in his culture, children do not fail, period. By reinforcing this type of thinking - that if you don’t get it right you’re a failure, children may believe that they cannot do well enough to succeed, and may even give up before they’ve tried at accomplishing something.

From reading the article, I’ve learned that culture plays an integral role in how people learn, even if it’s not all that noticeable or distinguishable at first glance. In the linked article, Corinne Brion states, “Learning is a social endeavor and knowledge is contextual. Culture affects learning transfer specifically because if cultural barriers prevent people from engaging in various aspects of the learning process, they will not be able to apply new knowledge to their jobs.” I think this is basically saying that learning can be a social process. If there is misunderstanding in part of the learning process, it can be difficult or next to impossible to transfer what you’ve learned (or lack thereof) into your work. Additionally, I feel there is also a level of discouragement one may feel when this happens. Lack of understanding might make one feel as if trying to learn more isn’t worth the trouble of potentially missing something, or having a bad experience because of it. I think we all need to be mindful of this learning process transfer concept and push ourselves to be open-minded while learning and helping our peers to learn!

To me, cultural experiences definitely shape you into the person you are or will become. They are very important, and it is so interesting to learn about other cultures, and how aspects of those cultures have molded our peers! My roommate this year is from Costa Rica, and it has been extremely fun and interesting to observe what sorts of differences there are between our cultures. My roommate makes us coffee every day at around 5:00, and has told me that she finds it weird how Americans drink coffee in the morning. Sometimes when we are walking to the store together, she will cross the street when she doesn’t see other cars coming, and I sheepishly follow her while admiring her braveness! Just by living with her for 3 weeks, I have learned so much about her traditions and culture, and am so happy she is my roommate! She has taught me many things, and I’m excited to continue learning new things from her!

Personally, the environment I grew up in has taught me to always be kind and respectful to everyone, even if they don’t always deserve it; you never know what could be going on in someone else’s world. There is no need to be rude or condescending. Taking the high road is always the better option.