

"Asians eat **weird** things."

"Arabs listen to **strange** music."

Ask yourself this: "Is it really wrong?" "Is it really backward?" "Is it really weird?" or are these customs simply *different* from your own? You know the true answer.

Xenocentrism is the opposite of ethnocentrism in that one believes that other cultures are superior to one's own culture and that one's own culture has very little value or nothing to offer. Some people use xenocentrism as an "overcorrection" for their ethnocentrism. This can be just as dangerous as ethnocentrism, because once again, we cut ourselves off from learning from everyone and everything we encounter. All people, places, cultures, religions, races, genders, and orientations have something to offer. It does not mean that we have to accept and embrace every idea or characteristic from every person or every culture, but being an educated citizen does mean learning to listen, evaluate, analyze, and then make our decisions.

Take a few moments to complete Figure 13.6. As you consider each statement, respond with honesty and sincerity.

Figure 13.6 Getting a Grasp on Ethnocentrism

Read each statement very carefully, and then, based on your personal feelings, experiences, and upbringing, circle the number on the scale that best reflects your opinion as to whether this behavior or action is "good" or "bad."

STATEMENT	BAD		NEUTRAL		GOOD
1. Looking at someone when you talk to them.	1	2	3	4	5
2. Eating any type of food with your bare hands.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Having a pierced eyebrow.	1	2	3	4	5
4. Smelling someone as a greeting.	1	2	3	4	5
5. Eating someone's cremated ashes as a tribute to him or her.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Being late for an appointment.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Participating in an arranged marriage.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Believing in more than one god.	1	2	3	4	5
9. Eating cows.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Eating pigs.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Eating dogs.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Eating horses.	1	2	3	4	5
13. Having sex before marriage.	1	2	3	4	5
14. Chewing food with your mouth open ("smacking" your food).	1	2	3	4	5
15. Believing that money is a good thing.	1	2	3	4	5
16. Requiring that women cover all body parts except their eyes.	1	2	3	4	5
17. Staring at someone.	1	2	3	4	5
18. Moving away or out of your parents' home.	1	2	3	4	5
19. Shaking hands with your right hand.	1	2	3	4	5
20. Taking a bath every day.	1	2	3	4	5
21. Duty and country should always come first.	1	2	3	4	5
22. Calling a person by their first name.	1	2	3	4	5
23. Everyone should have a chance to be educated.	1	2	3	4	5
24. Nose rings are OK.	1	2	3	4	5
25. Tattoos are OK on any part of the body.	1	2	3	4	5
26. Using profanity to express one's self.	1	2	3	4	5

(continued)