Comparison of Individualistic and Collectivistic Cultures:

emphasis of individual fulfillment and choice versus interdependent relationships, social responsibility, and the well

being of the group

**Differences in an Educational Setting**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Individualistic** – 30%  (North American) | **Collectivistic** – 70%  (Native American, Native Alaskan, Korean, Latino) |
| Treatment of Property | Individual ownership, permission to borrow – otherwise considered taking/stealing | Boundaries of ownership are permeable, clothing, books, toys are readily shared |
| Participation | Students are asked/required to share views with others, discuss the lesson and voice opinions | Considered disrespectful to communicate opinions to older people, idea sharing is for people with status |
| Student | Need to be independent thinkers, independent workers, focus on own achievement | Cognitive development is not the main goal, base a sense of self on the affiliation within a group |
| Classroom | Emphasis on independence, individual achievement, self-expression, personal choice, competition | Focus on cooperation, learning by listening, concern for everyone’s success, mutual helping (may be seen as cheating) |

Trumbull, E., Rothstein-Fisch, C., Greenfield, P., & Quiroz, B. (2001). Bridging cultures between home and school: A guide for teachers. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis Group.