

Cultural identity has diversified our society and has impacted our nation as a whole. Our nation was built from a variety of cultures; therefore America has become culturally and socially divided. Cultural identity is important because of the effect it has on your everyday life and your future. Cultural identity has a major impact on who we are as a people and our perception of the world.

First, cultural identity has a major impact on who we are as a people because it determines your morals and beliefs. We can see an example of cultural identity in Amy Tan's *Two Kinds*. In the story it says, "My mother believed you could be anything you wanted to be in America." This quote shows how her mother came from a Chinese background, however she believed America worked. This quote supports the thesis because it shows how her mother's Chinese immigrant background shaped her beliefs about America. Another example of this is in *Self-Portrait on the Borderline Between Mexico and the United States* by Frida Kahlo. In the painting, we can see an Aztec temple and a skull. These objects show Frida's connection to traditional Mexican religion and beliefs. These objects support the theme because they show how Frida's cultural identity determined her religious beliefs. So, cultural identity had a major impact on who we are as a people because it determines your morals and beliefs.

In our everyday lives we are faced with a diverse community and the behaviors that are associated with them. We sometimes choose the cultures in which we involve ourselves in and sometimes we don't necessarily have a choice, it's mainly influenced by our family and ancestors. "Culture is the intersection of people and life itself. It's how we deal with life, love, death, birth, disappointment... all of that is expressed in culture." This quote by Wendell Pierce conveys that each person has their own morals and values that affects how they act toward others and their community. A person's culture can cause internal conflict as one may debate whether their culture is right or if it is wrong, which could lead to debating on whether or not they are good enough to fit in. "It's not enough to have a hacker culture anymore. You have to have a design culture, too." This quote by Robert Scoble allows us to see that we don't have to agree with everything in our culture and we can choose to believe and act the way we please.

Cultural identity is largely impacted because of our ancestral background and what our parents have taught us to be right and wrong. Being raised by people that think a certain way will force us to think the same way, we get their views and their reasonings and we don't get anyone else's views so your parents opinion seems more valid. In the story *Two Kinds* by Amy Tan, the daughter writes "Soon after my mother got this idea about Shirley Temple, she took me to the beauty training school in the Mission District and put me in the hands of a student who could barely hold the scissors without shaking... In fact, in the beginning I was just as excited as my mother, maybe even more so." This textual evidence shows that the mother thought one way and even forced her daughter to do something that maybe the daughter didn't want but after a while the daughter ended up being "happy" about the circumstances because she saw her mother was happy. This is, of course, just an example of a mother having an effect on her child and may not show the cultural background showing through. The poem "My Mother Pieced Quilts" written by Teresa Palomo Acosta in the evening you sat at your canvas, —our cracked linoleum floor the drawing board, me lounging on your arm". This Quote shows that her and her mother were close and that they shared a common interest in quilting like some cultures enjoy cooking or holiday traditions. Would the author of this think it strange to have a culture or a

background that doesn't involve quilting. A parent's background that is passed on to a child is often a huge part of culturally growing up and having understanding.

Cultural identity is greatly impacted and very important on how you are going to live your life in the near future. "they were just meant as covers" "oh mother you plunged me sobbing and laughing into our past into the river crossing at five into the spinach fields 50 into the plainview cotton rows into tuberculosis wards into braids and muslin dresses sewn hard and taut to withstand the thrashings of twenty-five years" In this poem the young girl looks up to her mother as for i do not. Both of my mom's have not been the best example of how you should live as an adult. "a Mexican to Americans a handy token sliding back and forth between the fringes of both worlds by smiling 20 by masking the discomfort of being pre-judged Bi-laterally." that's how i feel in my family. Everyone in my family went down one path and as for i am going down another. I want to branch off from them. I am apart of them but i am living in a different world. Therefore i believe that culture has a huge part on our identity because it makes us want to follow in our parent's footsteps or branch off.

In conclusion, cultural identity has a major impact on who you are as a person and your perception of the world. This argument is supported by your morals and beliefs, your community and behaviors, your ancestral background and your parents teaching of right and wrong, and the way you will live in your near future. The cultural identity you develop is of extreme importance; however sometimes we become so focused on what makes us different from others, we forget what brings us together. While it is important for us to respect other cultures and acknowledge their importance, America as a nation should focus on what brings us together, not what sets us apart from each other.

