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Nacirema Discussion Questions

Part One: Nacirema

1. What negative stereotypes were given (in the video) about Americans that were incorrect? How do Americans WANT to be perceived? How do the other groups of people want to be perceived that we discussed

2. Who are the Nacirema? When did you discover the joke? What point do you think Miner is trying to make in this article?

3. Who should get to “represent” a group of people, by writing about them, interpreting their behavior, and in other ways speaking “for” (or about) them? How does somebody get that right? Does the social position of the speaker play a role in the process? What kind of social position do American anthropologists have?

Part Two: Ethnocentrism

4. What is ethnocentrocism? •the tendency for people to judge other cultures according to their own cultural standards •thinking that your culture is "superior" to other cultures •thinking that your way is the "only" way to live Questions:

5. While we all can have the tendencies to be ethnocentric, why is it important that we try not to be?

6. Can ethnocentrism be dangerous? Why or why not?

7. Question on cultural relativism…