

Print and Oral Culture

by Donna Beegle, Ed.D.

Characteristics of Oral Culture

[common in generational poverty]

- *Relationships* – Are at the heart of everything and are first priority
- *Spontaneous* - Strong desire for variety, great abilities to “go with the flow” or jump from subject to subject with ease
- *Repetitive* – Storytelling and repeating the same thing over and over are important for maintaining the knowledge
- *Holistic* – Focus on the “BIG picture,” tendency to take in everything that is going on around them
- *Comfort with Emotions* – Shows emotion readily in most any situation
- *Present Oriented* – Highly in-tune with the here-and-now

Characteristics of Print Culture

[not common in generational poverty]

- *Linear* – Organizes thought and actions by “first this, then this” thought process
- *Time* – Is at the heart of everything and has high priority in daily activities
- *Analytic/Abstract* – Knowledge is outside of self, ability to step back from a situation and separate and disconnect self from what is going on
- *Self-disciplined/Focus* – Strong ability to shut out sense data and focus on one idea at a time
- *Ability to delay gratification* – Strong understanding of relationships between parts. Ability to strategize, plan ahead, set goals, and focus on the future. Abilities to break things into goals, and focus on the future. Abilities to break things into parts promotes abilities to connect small efforts to end desires