

A community in Minnesota was involved in severe flood with many homes destroyed. Under this situation, imagine that your client comes from a low context culture, and then from a high-context culture. For each type of culture, answer the following questions in a separate post, considering your client in the situation is a member of your population of interest.

- (1) How would you approach your client from a culturally competent perspective?
- (2) How is your approach different from a more “general” approach?
- (3) What assumptions should you consider in the case, dependent on the cultural context variable? What biases or biased assumptions should you be on the lookout for?

### **Low Context Culture**

1. Since my client is a teenager in foster care from a low context culture, I would focus on specificity and clarity. I would use my words literally and try to explain everything as detailed as possible. I would first talk with the teenager to assess if she was in a state of shock or needed emergency medical or mental health attention. The next priorities would be to find immediate safe placement since the current home was destroyed in the flood. It may prove beneficial for me to think of the client’s historical experiences and factors that make up her individualized perception of self.
2. This approach caters more to the individualized factors. It also uses exact words and detailed directions to help ease the client during the traumatic experience. Other general approaches may also not take into consideration the historical factors involving foster care.
3. Some things to consider in this case depend heavily on the foster care aspect. The client has likely experienced placement instability and been exposed to other dangerous or traumatic events that could easily re-traumatize or trigger other feelings and behaviors. I would connect with the client and monitor her behaviors to decide if increased therapeutic or clinical intervention was needed.

### **High Context Culture**

1. A teenager in foster care from a high context culture would need a different approach. I may avoid making a point of sitting her down to literally talk through every detail, but instead I could connect her situation through that of the foster family and other survivors of the flood. I would focus more on non-verbal communications when working with her and use stories to work through the crisis.
2. I feel like this approach is different than a general approach that may put more focus on giving detailed directions of the next plan to find placement and deal with the immediate effects of the flooding and homes.
3. The issues of foster care culture remain the same for each client, but the approach to discussing and building rapport would be personalized to fit the high context culture. Some things to consider outside of the already discussed foster care experiences of placement instability are that the client may feel shamed if I were too direct and personal

with her. This is due to the high context culture but also possible past traumatic experiences of neglect or abuse that she may blame herself for instead of the caregiver.