

DISCUSSION - Culture and Subculture

QTC: Define culture and subculture.

AR: Culture - The sum total of ways of living, developed by a group of human beings to meet biological and psychosocial needs. It includes language, religious beliefs, customs and rules of etiquette, values and ideas people use to organize their lives.

Subculture - A smaller culture within the larger culture, which has some characteristics of the larger culture, but also has some distinct characteristics of its own.

QTC: List the qualities of culture.

AR:

- Culture is learned; is not biologically inherent.
- Culture is cumulative; it is transmitted from one generation to another.
- Culture is value laden; it states to all of us what or who is bad, good, right or wrong.
- Culture is normative; it has definite rules.
- Culture affects how we view the world, others, family, time, relationships, etc.
- Culture is "out of awareness," we assume it is how everyone thinks, feels and behaves.

QTC: Identify how improved cultural awareness will benefit communication for law enforcement.

AR:

- Reduced community/police conflict
- Increased community/police cooperation
- Realistic community expectations
- Improved image
- Improved recruitment
- Improved problem solving
- Reduction of lawsuits
- Improved loyalty and trust of the community
- Increased safety for officers

QTC: Define bias, prejudice and stereotype.

AR: Bias - An inclination or preference, especially one that interferes with impartial judgment: **Prejudice.**

Prejudice - A judgment of opinion formed before facts are known, usually involving negative or unfavorable thoughts about groups of people.

Stereotype - Generalizations that are thought to apply to most members of a group.

QTC: Identify select Hispanic cultural issues.

AR: Eye Contact - Hispanics will not look authority figures in the eye.

Time Concept - Americans tell time by the minute. Hispanics tell time by the hour.

Machismo - Male Hispanics are the dominant figure in most families. They dominate their women and place emphasis on sexual prowess.

QTC: What are some helpful hints and useful information for police officers when interacting with members of minority groups?

AR:

- Understand that youngsters are not lured into homosexuality from heterosexuality. It appears that proselytizing does not influence sexual orientation.
- Understand that homosexuality, like heterosexuality, has existed in all types of families, in all societies, throughout history.
- According to current research, approximately 10% of individuals in the population are either gay or lesbian.
- Realize that research has shown there is no physical difference in the vast majority of gays and lesbians versus heterosexuals in general behavior or appearance.
- Recognize that your culture is no better or worse than any other culture just different.
- Understand that cultural differences are not inherently negative.
- Do not generalize about a group based upon one person.

QTC: Identify ways to prevent discrimination.

AR:

- Recognize that your culture is no better or worse than any other culture just different.
- Understand that cultural differences are not inherently negative.
- Do not generalize about a group based upon one person.

QTC: Define the term “racial profiling” and its effects on law enforcement agencies.

AR:

- The practice of stopping motorists solely on the basis of their race
- Increased lawsuits
- Loss of public trust
- More danger to officers

QTC: Identify police responsibilities as related to power and discretion.

AR: Treat people with respect...most important!

QTC: Identify and describe a bias related crime.

AR: A bias crime is a criminal offense committed against person, property or society that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias against an individual's or group's race, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

QTC: Identify the procedures for responding to a bias related crime.

AR:

- Respond in a timely manner
- Eliminates fear of the perpetrator being at large
- Reduces victim's trauma and alienation
- Relieves community fear and tension
- Take seriously each report
- Thoroughly investigate each case

QTC: Identify visible symbols of bias crimes.

AR: Written ethnic slurs, Nazi Swastika, Thunderbolts, Desecration of sacred objects, Taunts and Racial Epithets

QTC: Identify the characteristics of a bias crime perpetrator.

AR:

- Most biased crimes are committed by individuals, not groups.
- The majority are young people.
- They are potentially violent and dangerous.
- Most bias crimes are committed by a stranger.
- About half of all bias crimes are committed by people younger than 20.
- The most prominent factor is that they are more likely to involve physical assault, using "imprecise weapons of opportunity" such as bricks, bats, clubs, etc.

QTC: Identify the effects of bias crime on the victim and community.

AR:

- Deep personal crisis
- Increased vulnerability to repeat attack
- Sense of community/system betrayal
- Acute shock and disbelief
- Extreme fear of certain groups
- Hopelessness
- Anger/desire for revenge
- Shame and humiliation
- Victimization projected to all community members
- Sense of group vulnerability
- Community fear and tension
- Loss of trust in criminal justice system

QTC: Identify the major categories of physical disabilities an officer may encounter while on patrol.

AR:

1. Mobility - inability to move extremities
2. Visual - unable to see or impaired sight
3. Auditory - unable to hear or impaired hearing
4. Vocal - unable to talk or impaired speech

QTC: Identify basic techniques related to communicating with deaf or mute persons.

AR:

- Not all deaf/hearing impaired individuals can read lips.
- Lip reading is generally only 30 - 50% effective.
- Not all deaf persons have the ability to read, write, speak or lip-read.
- Do not hesitate to ask them to repeat something.
- Do not become impatient with the person if it takes longer to communicate.
- If they ask you, "What did you say?" the answers "Never mind", "Nothing" and "It's not important" should be avoided.