



Connecting People

Communication  
Across Barriers

## Understanding Communication Styles

### If you are more of an *Oral Culture* communicator:

- Relationships are more important than anything
- It is normal to interrupt and to have multiple conversations at once
- Telling the same stories over and over helps you in your understanding
- Sharing your personal experiences and stories is your way of connecting with others
- You are comfortable jumping from subject to subject
- You like to focus on lots of ideas at once
- It is normal to show emotions/feelings
- You are very physical and expect physical responses
- You focus on what is going on around you right now
- You focus on the big picture, not the detail
- When you need information, you ask those around you
- You learn best when you get to practice the learning in your environment
- "Because many people in our society have lost the abilities to develop relationships, to see the big picture, and to be spontaneous." He always taught that in order to take care of ourselves and our planet, we needed to use the skills and strengths of each style as situationally appropriate.



**Characteristics of Oral Culture**

### If you are more of a *Print Culture* communicator:

- You are most comfortable focusing on one idea at a time
- You believe a plan is essential and your goal is to stay on task
- It is important to think abstractly about situations and analyze them carefully, detail by detail and apply in multiple contexts
- You like things in order...first this, than this etc.
- You approach tasks by breaking them into parts
- You sort and categorize information
- Time is crucial and you are rigid about it
- You do not show emotions or physical affection unless you know someone really well and you do not share personal stories
- When you need information, you look for a book or article on the subject



**Characteristics of Print Culture**