



## Cultural Difference Awareness

*This activity will help you think about ways to demonstrate **openness**, **confidence**, and **concern** in the U.S. university classroom. Check all the items that you feel are correct for each section.*

### TAs in U.S. universities can show **OPENNESS** to students by:

- looking occasionally into the eyes of students when speaking.
- frequently encouraging students to ask questions in class.
- keeping their facial expressions relaxed.
- smiling occasionally.
- using humor occasionally or laughing with the students.

### TAs in U.S. universities can show **CONFIDENCE** to students by:

- investigating an answer based on their background in the field when they don't know the answer to a question.
- standing straight.
- using expressive gestures and facial expression.
- admitting they do not know the answer to a questions but will find out.
- speaking slowly so that students can easily understand.

### TAs in U.S. universities can show **CONCERN** for students by:

- making each class as interesting as possible.
- providing brief and direct answers before checking to see if students want more information.
- giving students the responsibility to keep up with the course material.
- checking with students frequently to see if they have understood the material.
- answering every question with complete and detailed answers.

Smith, J. A., Meyers, C. M., & Burkhalter, A. J. (2007). *Communicate: Strategies for international teaching assistants*. Waveland Press.