

Connecting Banks and Communities Through Cultural Agility

Workshop Facilitation & Discussion Guide

Presented By:

**David B. Hunt &
Tony Orange**
Critical Measures, LLC
4627 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN. 55419
Tel: (612) 746-1375
Email: dbhunt@criticalmeasures.net

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Critical Measures, LLC
4627 Nicollet Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419
Tel: (612) 746-1375
Email: dbhunt@criticalmeasures.net

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Video: “The Danger of a Single Story”



Novelist/Speaker: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Learning to understand what assumptions we may hold about others and considering what assumptions others’ may have about us is a big part of cultural agility work. It is important to consciously check our assumptions at the door and treat each person with dignity and respect as a unique individual.

A well-known TED talk entitled “The Danger of a Single Story” helps to explore these points in an interesting and humorous way. In the video, novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie warns us that “the single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.”

You can find and watch this outstanding video here:

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

An interactive transcript of the presentation can be found here:

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story/transcript?language=en

Discussion: “The Danger of a Single Story”

- 1. What reactions or insights did you have to this video?**
- 2. Who might you have a ‘single story’ about? What is the content of that story?**
- 3. What might be others’ ‘single story’ about you?**
- 4. What other kinds of diversity stories do you need to understand?**