

Comparison of Cultural Differences at Work:

Egalitarian and Hierarchical Attitudes, Problem Solving Behaviors, Decision Making, and Performance Evaluations⁷

	Compared with egalitarian people, hierarchical people tend to:	Compared to hierarchical people, egalitarian people tend to:
Problem Solving	Focus on the problem's root cause (why it exists and who created it) rather than preventing the issue from re-occurring	Focus on problem solving and preventing re-occurrence rather than assigning responsibility for creating the problem
Decision Making	<p>Will continue to ask clarifying questions beyond what egalitarian people would consider sufficiently clear directions</p> <p>Prefer detailed instructions and will follow those directions completely</p> <p>Provide frequent updates to managers, and verify if managers concur with their suggested direction</p> <p>Prioritize tasks and responsibilities based on the position and title of the delegating person</p> <p>Rarely, if ever, disagree with their boss</p>	<p>Will stop asking questions and are ready to leave before hierarchical people would consider that sufficient direction has been provided</p> <p>Prefer general instructions and the freedom to use one's own approach</p> <p>Prioritize tasks based on urgency and importance</p> <p>Relatively comfortable disagreeing with their boss</p>

<p>Performance Evaluation</p>	<p>Avoid evaluating performance of their managers (upward feedback) 360 degree feedback is difficult to administer/obtain with these individuals</p> <p>Hierarchical managers are not open to being evaluated by their employees</p> <p>Hierarchical employees generally rate their managers or individuals who they perceive to have seniority over them, as excellent in every performance area</p> <p>Hierarchical employees will avoid writing first drafts of their own performance evaluations because they believe that only managers are qualified to evaluate their performance</p>	<p>Expect to participate in the evaluation of other people's performance, regardless of position or level</p> <p>Will not hesitate to write the first draft of their own performance appraisal</p>
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⁷ L. Laroche and D. Rutherford, *Recruiting, Retaining and Promoting Culturally Different Employees*, (Elsevier, 2007).



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