

Exercise: Explore the cultural logic of the following marital practices that are observed in many cultures worldwide:  
→ In other words, why do people in this culture engage in this behavior? Why might a person in this culture say she likes this practice?  
\* This is a brainstorming exercise. I will collect these sheets, but you will not be graded on their content

Arranged Marriage

- Economic - to keep wealth between families, class
- Political - to calm tensions between families
- ~~Parents~~ - Might not like it at all
- She might be happy that she is guaranteed a husband.
- Might be the norm so she would accept it
- ~~Parents~~ Marriage does not have the same meaning that we have. It is too important of a decision for a young woman to make.
- Love will come later
- involvement of parents motivates to make marriage work
- select spouse based on family

Bridewealth

- Compensation - for taking daughter, females are important in making male heirs
- Harder for couple to break up
- She might view the brideswealth as how much she is worth the more the bride wealth the more important they are
- Is insulting if she does not have one
- Grants security to bride in case husband dies (his family has invested)

Polygyny

- ~~Equal~~ Splits up the household so that each woman gets less work
- Provides Companionship
- Insures all women get married, even if town is mostly women.
- Produce more heirs because more than one wife can be pregnant.
- Women may like because is based on equality, all wives are treated the same.
- Women may like that they are married to the wealthy men who can practice polygyny