**What is culture?**

The pattern of daily life learned by a group of people. These patterns can be seen in (but not limited to) people’s language, art, customs, music, food, holiday celebration and styles of clothing.

**What is a cultural community?**

A group of people with a common goal, belief, need, concern, interest or passion.

You are going to spend a majority of this quarter researching a cultural community of individuals. Much like the I-Search you wrote as a Freshmen, this project will be largely self-driven and will require that you reach out to individuals for interviewing. In addition to discovering information regarding the cultural community you decide to follow, you will also research a problem plaguing the community and write a proposal for a course of action to remedy the problem. Consider the overarching goal of this project as you embark on your pre-writing.

A majority of class time will be reserved for work on your project, but you must also work outside of class. It is your responsibility to set deadlines for yourself and complete work on time.

* Due dates are the final date in which to turn in rough draft portions of each section. If you finish a section before that due date, you are welcome to turn it in and continue on with the process.

**What Culture to Examine? *Pre-writing***

1. **Begin with a Brainstorm**. In your notebook, divide your paper into three sections:

1. Cultures I know well 2. Cultures I’m familiar with 3. Cultures I have heard of/ want to know more about

Fill in the three columns with multiple responses for each.

* Use the definitions at the top of this handout to help you figure out if the group of people you are considering are part of a “culture”.

1. **Discover cultural communities**. Highlight 3 cultures you are interested in learning more about. Divide another paper in your notebook into 3 sections, labeling each column one of the cultures you chose.

* Find different groups that members of this culture could be a part of, and list these communities in each column under the appropriate culture. Consider searching for communities in the following places:
  + Locally by Town/State (Sebastopol, Sonoma County, The Bay Area, California)
  + College Centered (Sonoma State, The college you are planning on attending)

1. **Consider all the angles.** Highlight three cultural groups you are interested in examining further. On another piece of paper in your notebook. Answer *all*  of the following questions regarding each group:

a. What initial *draws/inspires* you to wanting to research this group?

b. What is your *goal* in researching this group?

c. What sources will you use to begin your research?

d. Who (in general) will be you be able to contact learn more about the group?

1. **Initial Research Proposal**. Pick *one group* from your work in step 3. Type up a multi-paragraph proposal to submit to Miss Liz regarding *why* you want to research this culture, and cultural community, for your project. This should be MLA formatted with appropriate title, heading and header.

Your proposal is due: **End of Class on, Thursday 3/30 OR Friday 3/31**

**The Project**

There are three sections to your paper/project, as well as a presentation.

Rough drafts of sections of your paper will be due throughout the quarter.

The final paper will be due on your presentation date.

**Section One: Cultural Community - A History (50 pts.)**

*Research a group of people who are part of a cultural community*

Research online and go out and visit the a group members of this cultural community. You will need to talk with the cultural community you are interested in by asking questions and getting to know them. If you cannot physically meet them, figure out a way to have a phone conversation or video chat with individuals.

Write a concise history of this cultural community. Consider including the following information:

* Who were the early founders of the group? Are they originally from the area the group is located, or did they move from elsewhere?
* When was the group created? What was the impetus for creating the group?
* How was the group founded? How did the group get its name?
* Who were/are the influential or celebrity group members (these can be *local* celebrities to the area)? What do/did they do and why are they important?
* Who is a part of this group now? Where do they come from? How has the community changed over time?
* What do they have in common that makes them a cultural community?
* How does the group contribute to the community? Do they hold events? Do they have celebrations?
* What are the requirements for participation in the group? Is there an induction process?
* What are rites of passage that members of the group go through? Are there certain milestones that are honored in the group?
* Are there meetings held for the group? Where are they held? When? What occurs at them?

When writing your paper, create titled subsections for different portions of the history you will be examining. *This paper should not be one, long, rambling history*. It should have objectives for each portion of the history to better help me understand who these people are.

**Requirements for paper for Section One:**

1. 3-5 pages long
2. It should have sub-section headings
3. Cite sources in your paper, as well as add these sources to your bibliography at the end
   1. You must use at least 5 sources for this section.
      1. Two of these sources must be interviews that you conduct.
4. It should be MLA formatted with appropriate title, heading and header.

A rough draft of this portion is due (with bibliography): **Monday, 4/24**

* *Note: You may turn your rough draft in sooner*

**Section Two: Challenges Facing the Community (50 pts.)**

*What are common concerns that this community has, and what issues have these concerns created.*

Research the problems and challenges that the cultural community is facing. Check local newspapers and ask members of the group to discover what these problems are. Find a few to pick from.

Focus on **ONE** problem your cultural community faces and research it thoroughly. Do not worry about the size of the problem. Pick one that you can gather the most information on, and feel most passionate about discovering a solution for.

Write a clear explanation of the problem. Explore its importance for this cultural group:

* Why does it matter? • Is it part of a larger problem? If so, what is the larger connection?
* Who is working on this problem? What are they doing about it?

**Requirements for paper for Section Two:**

1. 1-3 pages long
2. Cite sources in your paper, as well as add these sources to your bibliography at the end
   1. You must use at least 2 sources for this section
3. It should be MLA formatted with appropriate title, heading and header.

A rough draft of this portion is due (with bibliography): **Monday, 5/1**

* *Note: You may turn your rough draft in sooner*

**Section Three: Proposed Solution to the Issue (50 pts)**

After you’ve carefully examined the cultural community challenge in Section Two, you will write a proposal in which you offer a possible solution to the problem. Your solution should address the problem logically, but offer some creative thinking. In the best case scenario, your solution should be something that can ACTUALLY be accomplished and effect change.

You need to research similar problems that have popped up in other communities and solutions that were offered in order to better inform your decision on your own proposal for a solution.

This portion of your paper should address the following:

* How to begin the process of the solution
* Who need to be involved in the solution
* How much time/energy it will take in order to enact the solution
* Why this solution is feasible

**Requirements for paper for Section Three:**

1. 1-3 pages long
2. Cite sources in your paper, as well as add these sources to your bibliography at the end
   1. You must use at least 2 sources for this section
3. It should be MLA formatted with appropriate title, heading and header.

A rough draft of this portion is due (with bibliography): **Monday, 5/8**

* *Note: You may turn your rough draft in sooner*

**Presentation (50 pts)**

You will need to create a 5-7 minute presentation showcasing your research and your proposal. A final version of your paper will be due on the date of your presentation.

**Requirements for presentation:**

1. 5-7 minutes long
2. It must encompass each portion of your project (how long you spend on each during your presentation is up to you)
3. It must have visual support
4. Do not just read from your paper. You are expected to practice and be prepared to look at the classroom and engage us in your presentation. Use portions of your paper to highlight important aspects of your research, but *do not* just stand up in front and read your paper.
5. Be prepared for Q(uestion) & A(nswer) at the end of your presentation.
6. You will turn in your final paper at the end of your presentation.

Presentations will take place:

**Tuesday, 5/16 - Wednesday, 5/17 - Thursday, 5/18 - Friday, 5/19**