

## Culture Unit Project

**Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

You will have one work day in class to research or work on your final paper. Your work day is on \_\_\_\_\_.

Choose one of the following selections. These are the suggested projects for the unit on culture. You must select one and complete it by the due date. **Any other ideas must be cleared with me or they will receive no credit.**

All written work must be word-processed, 12-point font, and double-spaced. *It must be at least 2 pages in length!* Please do NOT film any of these activities or go to other schools to complete the project.

**For projects #1-5**, first, identify the norm that you are violating. Then, develop a hypothesis. What do you think will happen? Finally, report your observations/findings, as well as why your behavior violates the norms of our society. Why do you think people had the reactions they did? Was your hypothesis correct? Address *your* feelings during the exercise.

1. In a large waiting room where there are many empty chairs sit in a chair next to a person who is already seated. A friend must record the reactions of the other person. Repeat the activity at least five times with different people.
2. Enter an elevator where others are already riding. Stand facing the back of the elevator. A friend must be there to record the verbal and non-verbal reactions of others on the elevator. Repeat the activity at least five times. (You may want to try this with the escalator as well. Ride the escalator facing the wrong direction. Be safe! Don't go up the down or down the up.)
3. **Guys**, carry a purse to a store. Walk to the cashier and open the purse to take out your money and pay for your purchase. **Girls**, wear last year's prom dress to the grocery store. Record the reactions.
4. Visit a public place where many other people are present (athletic event, park, mall, etc.). Hold eye contact with at least 8 strangers for a few seconds. Note if men and women react differently, or if children react differently than adults. **Do not put yourself in a potentially dangerous situation where your body language could be interpreted as harassing or intimidating.** Record the reactions.
5. In class, and with prior consent, address at least three of your teachers by their first names. Watch the reactions of your classmates. Record the reactions.

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6. Interview 2 foreign exchange students. Ask the following:
    - a. What are the differences between their culture and American culture?
    - b. What does the student find interesting about Americans?
    - c. What about our culture is difficult for her/him to understand
    - d. What is humorous about our culture?
    - e. Did the student have to make any initial changes in his or her own behavior in order to adjust to our culture?
    - f. How does the dress and food differ?

Record their responses. Include your reactions to their responses including what you found most interesting or surprising about what they said. Be sure to include the country they are originally from.

**For projects #7 & 8, you must include proper citations** in order to receive full credit. Instructions are included below. (Wikipedia is not a proper academic source to use for this assignment.) You will be assessed using the Common Core Writing Rubric.

7. Choose one example of a subculture or counterculture in the United States. Research your choice. Include the following:

- Identify the type of group and why it is either a subculture or a counterculture
- Identify the norms, values and cultural traits of the group

Choices to select from: Amish, Ku Klux Klan, militant motorcycle gangs, Hare Krishnas, Native Americans, Neo-Nazis, street people, carnival workers ("carnies"), religious minorities like the Mennonites, hippies (Clear other choices with me.)

8. Research the gift-giving behavior OR marriage practices in one of the following cultures:

- a. China
- b. Latin American countries
- c. Japan
- d. Arab countries
- e. India

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### *In-text Citations*

You must provide citations for any work that is not your own.

This includes:

- direct quotes
- paraphrasing
- statistics

You do not need to cite:

- information considered common knowledge (names, some dates, facts a large number of people know)

To cite web pages, use the author if there is one or the title of the webpage.

Examples:

The GDP per capita of Mexican citizens in 2013 was \$15,600 (CIA World Factbook).

According to the CIA World Factbook, the GDP per capita in Mexico was \$15,600 in 2013.

### *MLA Citations*

If you are unsure of how to properly cite your sources in MLA format, use one of the following websites to help you.

Citation Machine – <http://citationmachine.net> (choose MLA 7<sup>th</sup> edition)

BibMe.org - <http://www.bibme.org/>

If there is no author listed on the website, begin with the title of the webpage.

Example:

Author (if there is one). "Webpage Title." Website Title. Webpage Sponsor. Date last updated.

Date information was retrieved. Web address/URL.

"Mexico." *The World Factbook*. Central Intelligence Agency, n.d. Web. 3 Mar 2014.

<<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mx.html>>.