

Paper #2 Cultural Immersion Report

(aka Cultural Plunge)

"I love the freshness and surprise of being in a new place. the way it makes even the most ordinary things seem extraordinary and strange. It makes me feel extra alive." Susan Orlean

Task: to take a cultural plunge into an environment which is unfamiliar to you; go there, look around, participate, talk to people and make observations. What can you learn from this? What did you take with you? Remember to approach & review the experience with generosity.

Due Dates:

Writing Center: optional but must be done on paper for points	10 points (participation)
Complete draft: Wednesday, Nov. 7	20 points (assignments)
Polished draft: Monday, Nov. 12	50 points (papers)

Rhetorical Mode: expository prose laced with narrative & analysis

Genre: technical report with observation, analysis, and description

Intended Audience: your classmates and your instructor

Purposes:

1. to build resilience and grit by placing yourself in a new and challenging environment, absorbing new cultures, anticipating new rules
2. to write it up with a critical analysis but generous view of the experience, akin to Orleans & Hall.

Process: read Olean's story for cultural generosity, read Hall for open-minded curiosity, write My Tribe to practice with an easy group, read Miner for drawing conclusions from observations, find an event, club, group, congregation in which to submerge yourself, write note sheet, then write report. *See, it all comes together!*

Tone: Formal Standard English (including no contractions, no slang, no "you" and limited "I")
Candid, direct, clear prose
Include intellectual and cultural generosity throughout (judgement free zone)

Format:

- Report with bolded subheadings (use template on Moodle), 1-inch margins, Times New Roman font; this is not MLA: follow the pre-set format requirements in the template
- 1200-1400 words with word count printed at the end
- include page numbers in header but single-spaced, college-level/sophisticated vocabulary, direct tone, and the voice of an observer.

Remember:

1. **Caveat:** do not put yourself in danger, engage in illegal activity, or use this as an excuse for risky behavior.
2. **Note Sheet:** take it with you to the event or fill it out **immediately** after; must have an artifact.
3. **Format:** Look to the assignment sheet and scoring guide for specifications. Follow the formatting instructions **exactly**. Ask your editors to double-check all the required elements. Erase the green and replace with your responses (sub headings are bolded; your prose is not bolded).
4. **Content:** This is a report so the tone will be serious, thoughtful and generous. You will **not** be critiquing the culture in which you've immersed; you're observing it with a magnanimous spirit seeking elements which could enrich your life. Give enough detail to sufficiently support your observations, but not gratuitous elements (example of gratuitous element: wall color, unless it is a mural depicting the underserved in a hall for fundraising).