

AN 112: Mini-field research project and paper

Due Nov. 16th.

Project Description:

Anthropologists often study distant and unfamiliar cultures, but we should recognize that all humans are cultural creatures. For this assignment, you will observe and analyze a culturally-bound practice within your own culture. The activity may include (but is not limited to) religious ceremonies, athletic events, holiday celebrations, or everyday activities such as going to the barbershop or hair salon. Utilizing the technique of participant observation, keep a detailed record (field notes) of all activities, behaviors, and social interactions that occur during the ritual event or practice. In three full pages of text, you will describe and analyze the culturally-bound practice. How do the observed patterned behaviors relate to similar cultural beliefs and activities we have discussed in class? Reflect on how culture shapes your everyday actions.

Project Guidelines:

- Plan on spending approximately one hour attending and observing the culturally-bound practice. You do not need to interview participants; however, you must obtain informed consent if you do conduct interviews.
- You will attach your field notes to the final paper. The field notes must include: time and date of activity; description of location, participants, and activities; and your preliminary thoughts or analysis. Remember to include all relevant ideas from your field notes in the final paper. Your grade will be lowered by 10% if the field notes are missing.
- The paper must have the following: an introductory paragraph that describes your fieldwork observations and includes a thesis statement; multiple body paragraphs where you discuss and analyze the ritual using class terms; and a concluding paragraph that both summarizes your argument and reflects on how culture shapes your everyday actions.
- Paper format: Times New Roman 12 point font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins on all sides; page numbers; and no title page (single-space your name in the upper right corner). The assignment needs to be at least three full pages of text or your grade will be lowered.
- Due Date: The paper is due on Monday, November 16th

* thesis statement
2 or 3 topic in detail

- who is there, ages, Gender, No.
- what they doing - take enough notes
- write like journalist, sounds, smell,
- how they interaction, how I relate that to class
- what symbols, what they represent.
- Is there any certain terms, vocal term, any leaders
- Do you see any body language, why it's important?
- choose 2, 3 topics to take about - attach your field notes.

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