

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

This assignment is a 5-6 page research paper on a contemporary "problem" that will demonstrate your knowledge of anthropological theory, ethics, methodology, and applications. You will have wide latitude to choose and define a problem that interests you. In the first part of the paper you will describe the problem using an ethnographic style. In the second part of the paper you will propose a plan to apply anthropology to work towards ameliorating the problem. **The final draft is DUE in Section on Friday July 26th**

CHOOSING A TOPIC

Get started on choosing a topic right away! A good topic is critical for a good paper and may take some time to define. Start with what you are interested in and then do research to determine what specific resources are available. The specific sources will help you narrow your focus from a general topic to a specific problem and group of people.

The "problem" that you address in your paper should be something caused by or affecting a specific group of people. You have latitude to define the group of people and the problem, but you should keep two things in mind. First, you will need to write about your problem ethnographically, which means that you need to write a description from a cultural perspective. Second, you will need to propose a plan to apply anthropology to build useful knowledge to help resolve the problem. There is a huge variety of potential topic areas and specific problems, but not every possible idea will work well for this assignment. We compiled a list of topic categories that we feel will work well with this assignment (See separate document). The list will give you some general ideas, but you must define a specific problem within one of the topic areas and a specific group on which to focus.

SOURCES FOR YOUR PAPER

The best sources for the information that you will need to include are ethnographies. Ethnographies are the published writings of anthropologists or other scholars that approach a topic from the perspective of culture. The best ethnographies to use as sources are etic descriptions of a culture or emic descriptions of people's lives, thoughts, and experiences which are based on information learned during participant-observation research. Many, but not all, ethnographic sources will explicitly define themselves as "ethnographies" or "ethnographic". In addition to the two required ethnographic sources, you may find useful information in a variety of other sources.

Requirements for sources:

- a. You must have at least 5 sources, which are cited in the text of your paper and included in your references cited.
- b. At least two of your sources must be ethnographic articles or books.
- c. Other sources can include documentaries, newspapers, magazines, or edited online news sources.
- d. Blogs, letters, or editorials may be used to cite opinions but not to cite facts.
- e. Peer edited references such as Wikipedia are not allowed.

Suggestions for finding sources:

- a. For a useful guide in research in anthropology:
<http://guides.library.ucsb.edu/content.php?pid=61950&sid=455688>
- b. Academic journal article databases such as Anthropology Plus, Jstor, Sociological Abstracts, and Web of Science are recommended for general anthropological research. These databases are also good starting points for researching ethnographic sources.
- c. If during research you do not immediately find the specific topic you are looking for, try using a variety of synonyms as search terms.

THE PAPER

PART A: Ethnographic Description (3-4 pages)

This portion of your paper will be an ethnographic description of the problem. You will need to find sources of information that approach the topic and problem you are writing about in this way. You need to write about the culture: the cultural systems, ways of thinking, and ways of behaving. Use information from your sources, but construct your own narrative in your own voice.

In your description, you should provide an etic perspective, which systematically analyzes the culture and the problem. You should also provide an emic perspective, which captures the insider perspectives and meanings. Be sure to include the emic perspective from all cultures involved if you are addressing some form of conflict between different groups. Most cultural problems are located at the intersection of a variety of cultural factors, so describe your problem holistically and illuminate how it is integrated in the culture. You may also need to include some historical context. We will be looking to see that you explicitly link the problem with cultural concepts and appropriately use concepts from class in your description.

PART B: Research Proposal (2-2.5 pages)

This portion of your paper will be a proposal to conduct anthropological research in order to generate culture specific knowledge. **We do not expect you to propose a solution to the problem, rather we expect you to propose a plan to do anthropological research.** Focus on how you will gather knowledge about the culture(s) or the problem. However, you will need to consider how the knowledge you propose to gather can later be applied to help ameliorate the problem. Anthropological knowledge is often applied by raising awareness, influencing policies or practices, or implementing programs. This proposal should be written as though you intended to actually go and perform the research that you propose. It will be broken down into three parts.

1. **Statement of Purpose:** Your statement of purpose should begin with the words "I propose to..." and outline the general nature of your proposed research. You should clearly state each of the following: 1) the goals of the research; 2) the special features of anthropology that will help you to realize those goals; 3) the ethics of your research and your goals. You may also consider whether or not your research will be collaborative or interdisciplinary.
2. **Methods and Data:** In this section you should get specific with what you plan to do. You need to describe how you will carry out your research: How long will it take? What specific research methods will you use? What type of data or information will you be looking to gather? How will these methods and data allow you to accomplish your goals?
3. **Significance:** This is the conclusion to your proposal and your paper as a whole. It should be a strong statement that reviews and emphasizes the significance of the problem and the benefits of doing the research that you propose. You may also consider the possible broader impacts of the research that you propose.

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS

The Final paper that you submit will consist of a title page, a 5 to 7 page paper, and a references cited page. Please follow the instructions below for formatting each part.

- **Title Page**
 1. Title: Aligned center, 18 point font.
 2. Heading: Aligned center, 12 point font, below the title. Include: Your Name, Course (Anth 2), Section Time/Day.
 3. Abstract: Up to 250 words, aligned left, single spaced, 12 point font.
- **Paper**
 1. Total of no less than 5 full double spaced pages (6 page maximum) NOT including the title page or references cited. Writing should start at the top line of page one and continue at least to the bottom line of page five. You may go on to, but not past, the seventh page.
 2. Part A should be 3-4 pages, Part B should be 2-2.5 pages
 3. Part B should be preceded with the subtitle "Research Proposal", and each of the three parts of Part B should also have subtitles ("Statement of Purpose", "Methods and Data" and "Significance").
 4. Standard font (Times New Roman 12 point)
 5. No extra space between paragraphs
 6. One inch margins on all four sides
 7. Your last name and page number in a right aligned header.
- **References Cited Page**

You must use in text citations for all information taken from references that you include in your paper. Information must be cited whether or not it is a direct quotation. Failure to properly cite references is a form of plagiarism. For this paper you will be expected to follow the American Anthropological Association style guide. See the resources that are posted on Gauchospace.