

Interview Assignment. 125 points.

GS 200. Fall 2016. *Due Tuesday, October 11 (Submit electronic copy to Turnitin)*

Please pay close attention to all components of this assignment! Failure to complete assignment in its entirety will result in lost points.

Assignment Description:

You are to interview someone who is not from your country (and not from the United States or Canada). This person may be a fellow UAH student, someone in the greater Huntsville community, or someone residing elsewhere. Ideally, it will be a person with a native language other than English.

One option for an interview partner is an international student at UAH. You can contact me if you would like assistance in making contact with an international student on campus.

After you have identified the person you will interview, you should set up a time to speak with this person, either in person, on the phone, or over email.

Assignment Requirements:**1) Demographic Information:**

- a) You should first collect basic demographic and personal information from your interviewee, including the person's age, home country, native language, religion, education, job/employment status.
- b) This demographic information is important in contextualizing the reflective questions you will raise.
- c) You are to type this demographic information and attach it at the end of your analytical essay.

2) Five Reflective Questions

You will write at least five key questions that you will pose to your interviewee. Questions can pertain to themes such as family, work, education, politics, economics, hobbies, sports, religion, daily life, culture (such as entertainment, cuisine), globalization, etc.

You will turn these questions in with your analytic essay. For each question, please include a brief explanation for why you decided to pose this question. You will attach the questions and these explanations at the back of your analytical essay.

Tips: Work on asking open-ended questions that invite the interviewee to provide more detail and perhaps anecdotes about his/her life. For example, if you ask a question about hobbies, it is better to ask a broader question such as "What kind of hobbies or sports do people in your country pursue?" than the more specific "Do you play soccer?" After you pose the open-ended question, you can then follow up with more specific questions, including asking specifically what your interviewee does/thinks regarding the question (such as, "Do you personally play soccer?"). In addition, questions should be neutral (that is, not phrased in a way that reflect your own political, religious, and personal views, etc.); you want the interviewee to have the freedom to answer the question in his/her own way.

Note: As you conduct the interview, you should take careful notes on what your interviewee says. After you complete the interview, I recommend that you immediately sit down and take note of your own reactions and comments regarding the interview and begin to identify the key themes that emerge from the interview.

3. Analytical Essay

The final requirement is to write an analysis of your interview. This will be an essay with a minimum of 1000 words that features a central thesis, well-structured supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. This essay should be a "structured analysis" of the interview and what you learned. Take time to reflect on what you learned and organize the content and your reflections into an essay format. One way to approach structuring the essay is to think about the most important/compelling/surprising/etc. things you learned and then use these items as the basis of your analysis. The completed essay will be submitted to the turnitin dropbox in Canvas.

ATTENTION: Your task is to *analyze* and consider the answers your interviewee provided and then develop an organized essay based on this analysis of the material. In other words, treat the responses in ways you might handle passages from a text (such as a novel) for analysis and interpretation. Consider the entirety of the responses and identify key points of analysis and use these points to develop a thesis and analytical structure for your paper.

DO NOT simply write an essay that is a "chronology" of the interview. Do not structure and write your essay in this way: "I asked this question and got this answer, and then I posed this question and got this answer." This is not an analytical essay, but instead a chronological recounting of the interview.

Grading Scale:

F - failure to complete the project; or obvious "made-up" interview

D - project completed, but very sloppy work and no analysis; clear that project was not taken seriously; and/or many proofreading errors

C - proper collection of demographic information; adequate selection of interview questions, but chronological structure with little analysis; and/or sloppy writing and proofreading

B - proper collection of demographic information; solid selection of interview questions and explanation for them; good analysis, but still more chronological than analytical in structure; mostly clear writing and structure; few proofreading errors

A - proper collection of demographic information; strong selection of interview questions and clear explanation for them; excellent and insightful analysis; clear structure and polished writing/style with few to no proofreading errors.

Additional items for you to consider before and after the interview:

How much did you know about the interviewee's home country before conducting the interview? If you did not know much, what factors contributed to you not knowing that much? If you knew a lot already, how did you learn this information?

What were the most important things you learned in the interview and why?

Did you find anything surprising? Why?

How did this interview encourage you to re-consider your own ideas about your home country?

Did you learn anything that challenged or changed your mind about a particular aspect/topic?