

Paul English

COMM 1010-003

Shirene McKay

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### **Cultural Site Visit Notes**

## **1 Give a brief background of culture**

- **Describe how you decided to visit this culture** I've never been to a government meeting, so I wanted to go. I wanted to see what it's like.
- **Give researched background on the culture** Most cities have city council,
- **Tell us what you anticipated** I anticipated a dull meeting with old people.

## **2 Describe communication**

- **Share specific examples of communication experiences, own feelings**  
It's a very moderated and structured meeting, with a very specific vocabulary used to control discussion.
- **Use communication vocabulary from the chapter**  
low-context, not much diversity.
- **Share artifact**

It's a printed meeting agenda! Clearly Sandy city is on the ball, they've still got 2012 in there.

### 3 Analysis

- **Suggest how a person might prepare to make a visit to this site enjoyable**

Visiting a city council meeting is not a particularly joyous occasion, it would seem that most people will go there primarily to argue a point or get support in regards to some issue. I would suggest reviewing the council meeting agenda beforehand, they're usually always posted on the city websites. This will clue you in to the topics that will be reviewed and voted on by the council members. You may want to regularly check these agendas to see if issues relating to you ever arise.

- **Tell us what you learned**

I learned a little bit about the separation of the council side of city government from the administration side, as one person tried to argue for a permit, which was repeatedly declared as an administrative issue, and not for debate in the meeting.

I learned a bit about the specialized language that is used to moderate and control discussion.

### 4 NOTES

mayor dolan

- guy from pleasant grove handing out budget awards

catheter award?

- citizens comments

– cit (josh) represents firksy: half-marathon to end in sandy

big cottonwood marathon

- council items

ordinance 1304

ammending title 15 chapter 13

matt schadel on a temporary work permit

150 days

on temporary business in a vacant lot

christmas trees

90th S and State

is it appropriate to ask questions about topics?

The girl Kris looks to be drinking a PBR

## **5 An excerpt from “So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish” by Douglas Adams, included for no reason whatsoever**

[An extraterrestrial robot and spaceship has just landed on earth. The robot steps out of the spaceship...]

“I come in peace,” it said, adding after a long moment of further grinding, “take me to your Lizard.”

Ford Prefect, of course, had an explanation for this, as he sat with Arthur and watched the nonstop frenetic news reports on television, none of which had anything to say other than to record that the thing had done this amount of damage which was valued at that amount of billions of pounds and had killed this totally other number of people, and then say it again, because the robot was doing nothing more than standing there, swaying very slightly, and emitting short incomprehensible error messages.

“It comes from a very ancient democracy, you see...”

“You mean, it comes from a world of lizards?”

“No,” said Ford, who by this time was a little more rational and coherent than he had been, having finally had the coffee forced down him, “nothing so simple. Nothing anything like to straightforward. On its world, the people are people. The leaders are lizards. The people hate the lizards and the lizards rule the people.”

“Odd,” said Arthur, “I thought you said it was a democracy.”

“I did,” said Ford. “It is.”

“So,” said Arthur, hoping he wasn’t sounding ridiculously obtuse, “why don’t the people get rid of the lizards?”

“It honestly doesn’t occur to them,” said Ford. “They’ve all got the vote, so they all pretty much assume that the government they’ve voted in more or less approximates to the government they want.”

“You mean they actually vote for the lizards?”

“Oh yes,” said Ford with a shrug, “of course.”

“But,” said Arthur, going for the big one again, “why?”

“Because if they didn’t vote for a lizard,” said Ford, “the wrong lizard might get in. Got any gin?”

“What?”

“I said,” said Ford, with an increasing air of urgency creeping into his voice, “have you got any gin?”

“I’ll look. Tell me about the lizards.”

Ford shrugged again.

“Some people say that the lizards are the best thing that ever happened to them,” he said. “They’re completely wrong of course, completely and utterly wrong, but someone’s got to say it.”