

Anthropology 4. Winter 2021. Assignment # 5 (20 points)

Submit your completed assignment to your TA's site **by Monday March 8 at 9am PST.**

Make sure to include your **NAME**, your **TA's NAME** and the **LETTER** of your **SECTION**.

Consider transcripts (1) and (2). They are the beginning of the opening statements delivered by two of President Biden's nominees for leadership positions in the federal government. In both of them, the nominees mention members of their respective families. That is what you will be asked to comment on (see below). (You can also watch and listen to them on YouTube and C-Span).

Transcript (1) (from Opening Statement by Judge Merrick Garland, nominee for Attorney General of the United States)

M. Garland; thank you, Mr. Chairman Mr. Ranking Member, members of the Judiciary Committee. I am honored. to appear before you today, as the President's nominee to be. the Attorney General. I would like first to take this opportunity, to introduce you to my wife Ly:nn, .. my daughters, Jesse and Becky, and my son-in-law Xan, .. I am grateful to the:m, and to my entire extended family that is watching. today. on C-Span, every. day. of my life. ... The President nominates the Attorney General to be the lawyer. not for any individual, but for the people. of the United States. [...]

Transcript (2) (from Opening Statement by Ambassador William Burns, nominee for CIA Director)

W. Burns; thank you so much. uh Mr. Chairman Mr. Vice Chairman, members of the Committee. I'm honored and humbled. to appear before you today as President Biden's nominee, for Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I'm deeply grateful. to the President for the opportunity. to return to public service and to lead .. the remarkable women and men of CIA. If confirmed, I will do everything-in-my-power, to justify the trust placed in me, and to earn the trust of this committee, Congress and the American people. I am also deeply grateful to Secretary Baker and Director Panetta, two: of the finest public servants this country has ever produced. for their very generous introductions. my whole life. has been shaped by public service. my father, a career army officer, fought in Vietnam, in the 1960s and eventually became the director of the U.S. .. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. .. As my three brothers and I bounced from post to post across our remarkable country, I never had to look further than my father, for the best model of non-partisan public service. and I never had to look further than my mother to find the best imaginable example of selflessness and commitment, and life shaped by faith. family. and hard work. I shared thirty-three years in the Foreign Service, with my wife, Lisa. herself an exceptional public servant and our two wonderful daughters, Lizzy and Sarah. their love and support

have made everything possible and have enriched my life beyond measure. .. across those decades as a diplomat in the Middle East and Russia, and a senior official in administrations of both parties, I developed enormous respect for my CIA colleagues. [...]

A) Drawing from Duranti's lectures and from the analysis of Walter Capps' speeches to his supporters (in chapter 10), answer the following 2 questions:

A1) What are some of the similarities and differences in the ways in which family members are mentioned, named, described by the two nominees? (5 points)

A2) What do some of the statements about the family in the two transcripts share with the examples Duranti discusses in his analysis of how candidates for the U.S. Congress narrate aspects of their life? (5 points)

B) Using the concept of the agency of language discussed by Conley in her book and by Duranti in lectures, answer the following 2 questions:

B1) Is agency attributed to family members in the two opening statements? If yes, identify the specific passage, sentence, phrase, or word that can be said to attribute agency to certain individuals (or to the whole family). (5 points)

B2) How is language used to attribute agency and responsibility to particular family members vs. the speaker? (5 points)

N.B. Your answers should be short and to the point, do not write little essays. Emphasize differences between the two speakers' use of language only if those differences are supported by evidence in the transcripts.