

Anthropology 1150 Research Paper Assignment

ANTH 1150: Introductory Anthropology

Winter: 2015

Due Date: March 12, 2015

Value: 25% of final grade

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Your assignment for Anthropology 1150 is intended to motivate you to explore in depth, one particular **indigenous people** that really interests you. In particular, I want you to select an indigenous group that is in some way endangered by the forces of economic expansion, resource exploitation, economic globalization, warfare / religious conflict, and environmental degradation or political racial/oppression. Often we find that combinations of one or more of these issues behind conflict circumstances. By **indigenous** people I mean groups of humans who have historically lived in a particular territory pursuing a lifestyle or adaptation which sustained them in that environment. These people are often labeled as bands, tribes or nations. They are groups that share a language, culture, homeland and history that has persisted through time. Today many of these people are **encapsulated** by **nation states** as a result of past **colonialism** and present **neo-colonialism**. (Such as native peoples living in the former British Empire.)

Examples closest to home are Canada's First Nations people, or Native Americans in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. Many of the indigenous peoples of Africa, Asia, and Australia are in similar circumstances. You could also consider other less obvious marginalized groups such as the Roma of Europe (Rom or Gypsies), the non-**Han** ethnic populations of China, various ethnic/tribal groups of Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Pick a group that you find interesting and are motivated to explore for which there are some good available research resources. Some students may want to explore their direct or extended heritage and past family ties to peoples, regions and countries..

Often we find relative peace and harmony in relations between indigenous people and surrounding nation states and we see other examples of extreme conflict, warfare or even genocide. Your project can focus on both **relationships that work** as well as things **that are more problematic**. For example Canadian native people have many historical conflicts with the Canadian state, yet basically have coexisted peacefully. Canadian native people still often find themselves in numerous conflicts with Governments, timber and mining companies, oil and gas exploration, the military and urban expansion.

Some of the large/ violent conflicts in the world today such as those in the Middle East, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, the Darfur region, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Afghanistan etc. are in the news on a regular basis. Other conflicts are less well-known than restricted to more specific issues often involving the development of natural resources. Canadian mining companies have come under scrutiny in recent years for environmental and human rights violations in several African and South American countries. The term **"Internally Displaced Peoples"** is often associated with these indigenous groups. When such people are forced from their home country they may become displaced as **"Refugees"**.

There are many websites and publications devoted to the plight of earth's indigenous peoples; one example which may give you some ideas, is a journal called CulturalSurvival

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/>

Environmental issues such as global warming or deforestation are often connected to indigenous issues as both environmentalists and indigenous people have common interests in the preservation of people in their natural environments. You should use a variety of **up to date research sources** to provide information on the group you are interested in. Use a mix of sources, not all just websites. Library books and journals may be useful for background data on people's past as well as for current developments.

Web-based resources may be used but one should exercise discretion as to the **quality of information** offered. Web-based **academic journals** are an excellent source while some hosted by corporate or political groups might present more **biased** material. See Course link for a page with links to websites on indigenous issues that may help you get started. Non-academic web based material should indicate the **organization name** and **author** to help ensure credibility.

The project will have a **cover page** and the following five **titled** sections; each section graded out of **10**.

- 1- **Introduction/Background:** Introduce your topic, the goals of the paper, the people and briefly outline the area's geography, environment and any relevant cross-cultural and contact history of the indigenous group you are looking at. How far back do the difficulties they experience go?
- 2- **Situation/Description:** Describe the current situation the indigenous group is in, outline both positive and negative aspects of their relationship to other peoples they may share territory with. Outline the nature of any conflict/issues they may be facing; environmental, climactic, resource development, political, military or other. Is their situation stable, improving or worsening?
- 3- **Options/Outcomes:** Consider the possible/potential outcomes for the people you are writing about. Are there compromises, solutions, partnerships, jobs and positive ways to proceed? How can the needs of indigenous peoples and nation states/ corporations perhaps be resolved?
- 4- **Conclusions/Future:** Summarize what you have learned about the situation and draw any conclusions you have as to how things may unfold in the future both positively or negatively, for the indigenous group you are looking at. Wrap up the paper and summarize the main points.
- 5- **Bibliography (or sources cited):** Indicate details of your sources, authors (alphabetically by surname) / organizations, date, publisher, place of publication. Both paraphrased and quoted information from external sources must be cited.

Parenthetical style citations or references should be used to indicate where quotes or any paraphrased information came from. You should **not** use **footnotes** or **endnotes** for your citations. Citation styles vary in the social sciences. For simplicity, you will use the **A.P.A.** citation format. Wikipedia provides some concise useful information on A.P.A. citation, the library also has handouts. Citations (references) for **paraphrased** or **directly quoted** information will appear in the body of your paper in brackets. The full publication details **title, author, date, publisher and place of publication** should appear in your bibliography. The format of your bibliography should be consistent with the requirements A.P.A. citation style.

The five parts of the paper must total **five to six typed double-spaced pages** in length, please use page numbers. Please **no fancy plastic covers**, just a title page that includes: name, ID#, course, date, prof and title. Put two staples in the corner. Any added illustrations, photos or maps should be put in an **appendix** at the back. Pages used for the cover, bibliography, or appendices are **excluded** from the five to six page count. You should consult at least **four to six sources**, (books, journals or appropriate web-based sources) in researching your paper. The layout should stick to standard 1" margins and 12 point font. Do not try to expand or contract your paper with unorthodox formatting, it stands out. Keep an **electronic copy** of your work backed up (or even just e-mail it to yourself) just in case.

Never use recycled, borrowed or Internet purchased essays, or try to pass off the quotes of others as your own words. Cheating is easily detected. **Plagiarism** of any kind is unacceptable and may result in **expulsion** from the university. (See statement on academic misconduct on the course outline and UOG website) Papers **must not** be e-mailed in, hand in **hard copy only** please. **Late penalty** without a valid/documented excuse is **2% per day**. Students with a **documented medical problem** or family crisis will be given due consideration.