

ANTH 104

Cultural Diversity Paper

Since 2008 UNESCO has inscribed over 400 expressions of culture from around the world. The diversity is incredible, and searching through the list uncovers brief written summaries, photographs, and often short videos. Enjoy browsing the list linked off my website, and choose **3** to summarize in a short written assignment. Your assignment should be approximately 5 pages in length, double spaced, and 12 point font. Include a brief introduction and conclusion to tie everything together. Don't forget to properly cite the website and various pertinent webpages or videos using the APA style! Please remember not to cut and paste content, you need to be summarizing in your own words. There will be zero tolerance for plagiarism. This essay is worth 10% of your overall mark in this course.

Many different forms of culture are represented, from every continent of the globe. You may want to choose 3 completely unrelated examples, or three expressions of culture (like dancing, or food) from 3 different parts of the world, or three different expressions of culture from the same region. Either choice will lead to an interesting and integrated essay.

These examples are your case studies to help you understand the incredible diversity of cultural practices, the purposes they serve in their particular contexts, and the various (often shared) threats to their vitality in a modern world.

Things to think about for each example include:

- In what way is this an important part of culture?
- Who is involved and what purpose(s) does it serve (ie. what does it communicate)?
- What elements of modernity threaten the vitality of this cultural tradition?

Many students are asking me about a thesis statement; it can be something as simple as "There is an incredible diversity of cultural expression that serves a variety of different needs". You can evaluate this very basic type of thesis with your 3 case study examples, either presented as three separate cases or blended together based on common functions (2 different approaches, it depends on the choice of examples and personal interests). Presenting the various reasons why these traditions are either still vibrant in a modern world or why they are threatened can be grouped together prior to a concluding paragraph, or as part of presenting each example (although this can sometimes feel repetitive).