

Final Exam Instructions

50 points, See Final Exam Schedule for Due Date
Due in Class During Final Exam Period

Assignment: Write a Summary of a Culture

Your choices will be San (!Kung, Ju/'hoansi), Trobriand Islanders, Nyinba, Mosuo, Maasai, Nuer, Kapauku, Azande, or Yanomami.

Goal of Written Exam: Describe a Traditional (Pre-Westernized, Pre-Colonized) Culture using the “barrel model” outline, including the main topics of infrastructure, social structure, and superstructure. Use at least four **approved sources**. I will provide some sources for each culture, but you may also find your own as long as you follow the guidelines passed out in the research handout in the Final Exam Materials Module on D2L).

Include at least 8 well-written paragraphs. Use at least two sources in each paragraph within the Body of the Paper (the infrastructure, social structure, and superstructure sections)

Format: Use Times New Roman font, size 11 or 12, double-spaced, with plain bold headings, don't use a cover sheet, folder, or title page. Submit with a Word File attachment. Word is free on any device. Do not submit image files or .pages files.

You must use **bold** headings to organize the main sections and subtopics of your paper

Writing Section by Section

You should have at least 4 Main Sections, the **Introduction**, **“Your Choice” Culture** (the “body” of the paper), **Conclusion**, and **References**.

Introduction

The point of the introduction is to introduce your topic and state the goal of the paper. You should use this section to tell me what you are writing about, why you are writing it, and how you are going to go about accomplishing the goal of this paper. For example, which topics are you going to discuss? In what order will you discuss these topics?

At some point you also want to set up a decent background or context for the culture. Therefore, you might want to include a little about history and language and perhaps describe the geography and climate of the region that your chosen society inhabits. If you want to set up a special main section with a main section heading for the background after the introduction, that is fine.

The Culture

Set up subsection headings for each subsection (infrastructure, social structure, and superstructure).

Conclusion

The biggest rule for the conclusion is to **not present any new information**. Summarize what you have already presented in the body of your paper. However, if your research or the information you present leaves unanswered questions or opportunities for further research, then the conclusion is a good place to state these. **Always re-address the goal** of your paper in the conclusion. Did you accomplish your goal? Then state so!

References

The References section is where you list the reference entries for the sources you used in your paper. This:

Peters-Golden, Holly

2012 The Ju/'Hoansi: Reciprocity and Sharing. *In* Culture Sketches, 6th edition. Pp 102-121. New York: McGraw-Hill.

... is a reference entry.

In-Text Citations

Use in-text citations, e.g. (Scales 2012), when you state specific facts in your paper. If you use information from a source, then you have to cite it. There should be no need for direct quotes or quotation marks in this culture summary; you should always summarize, paraphrase, or synthesize information from multiple sources and use your own words. **Do not use direct quotes or quotation marks in this paper!** When you use a citation, use the author's name and the year (Scales 2012).

Example of in-text citation:

San women traditionally nurse their children for as long as five years. The hormones produced by a nursing mother keep her from ovulating. As a result, San women give birth in intervals separated by several years (Haviland, et al. 2011).

Tips on Citations

Be proud of your in-text citations! Citing sources lets me know that you actually read/viewed the material. Citing relevant information from approved sources makes your paper valid! If you turn in a culture summary with very few, or no sources, this tells me that: 1) you have plagiarized, and/or 2) you have just made everything up, and/or 3) your statements are so vague or general that there are no specific or accurate facts in your culture summary, meaning that you have failed to meet the goal of this exam!

It can be hard to decide if you have too many citations. Let's say you have two or three sentences in a paragraph, in a series, that include information from the same source. In this case you should put the in-text citation at the end of the last sentence in the series. This allows you to cover everything without using an in-text citation at the end of each sentence. It is definitely better to over-cite. That will never get old unless you are just regurgitating your whole paper with word for word phrases and quotes (which are not allowed)! That is where summary, synthesis, and presenting information in your own words come in! This makes your paper flow!

Where should you use the most citations?

In an introduction you are talking about YOUR paper and what YOU are going to be doing, how YOU are doing it, etc. In this portion of the introduction you don't need any citations. A background on history, language, geography, climate, previous research by professionals in the field etc, would definitely need citations to validate the basis or context of your topic. The body of the culture summary will need plenty of sources as well because this is the “meat” of your paper, with all of the accurate and descriptive information about the culture.

The conclusion is a summary of what you have presented in the body of the paper. Based on your research of the provided sources, you will discover that the San are hunter-gatherers, egalitarian, band society, etc. This is more general and will already be cited in the body of the paper. Unless you are bringing up specific terms, or other specific data, you should have few or no citations in the conclusion.

Writing and Flow

I will be grading you on your writing and flow. Do not write long and complex sentences. You do not have to be wordy or flowery, just read and reread your paper to make sure that it makes sense! If your paper communicates well, then you are probably on the right track.

*A good and simple set of guidelines for writing a paper or giving a presentation is:

1. Tell them what you are going to tell them (Introduction).
2. Then tell them (Body).
3. Finally, tell them what you just told them (Conclusion).

Paragraphs should have topic or introductory sentences. Create your paragraphs to make specific points, and use your sentences to get to those points. When you write a sentence it should be related to the sentence before it or the sentence after it. If a sentence doesn't belong, you should probably start a new paragraph.

Flow means that your writing reads seamlessly. The things that you are saying must be presented in a logical and meaningful order. You should start by writing an outline. First **use simple headings**, then fill out the outline with sentences and paragraphs, citing sources along the way. This will give you a good start with paper organization and flow.

Your final step in ensuring good writing and flow is to read and reread your paper and keep correcting or rewriting until it makes perfect sense!

Content

The most important part of this paper is that you communicate important and accurate information about the culture! Do your research by reviewing the sources that have already been provided for you. The goal is to be descriptive and informative. This exam should be able to stand on its own as a good summary of a culture.