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Instructions:

UNST 220: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY TRAVEL GUIDE TOPIC AND RESEARCH PLAN

- **Read over Part One to get an overview of the assignment.**
- **Complete and turn-in Parts Two and Three to the Community Travel Guide Topic and Research Plan Dropbox.**

1. **Read the instructions for the Community Travel Guide assignment which is due Monday, Week Six:**

We are all part of multiple communities. Some of the communities we belong to are organized around a particular place; others are based upon a common interest or shared identity but are geographically dispersed. We may be part of a virtual community or have ties to a culture that has maintained its way of life for thousands of years. In this assignment, you will have the opportunity to further explore a community that you belong to. You will define your community, collect data about who belongs to it and what it means to its members, identify the places that are significant to your social group, explore how your community has been shaped by the larger society, critically analyze a challenge or problem that members face, and think about the future of your community. You will present your findings in a multimedia “travel guide” that will allow your peers to take a virtual visit to your community.

Your final travel guide should be presented in the most interactive format possible. You might consider making a video, recording a mock radio show or creating a newspaper. You may design a blog or website. Your travel guide can be presented in Power Point form, but if you choose to go this route, you should include audio narration, photos, illustrations, and links if applicable. Your guide must include the following elements:

- **Introduction:** What community did you choose to focus on? Why is this particular group of a people considered a community? What elements of community are present here? What values/experiences/ideas do community members share? Please support your answers with data that you have collected from your community. You might include quotes from interviews with members, numbers from an existing data set (such as the Census), or results from surveys you’ve conducted with a sample of your community. You may also refer to readings from this course or other research you have done. Please be sure to cite your sources.
- **Describe your community:** Who is a member of this community? You must choose at least three data points that you will focus on (for example: age, language spoken at home, favorite sport). You must include graphs or charts of these data points. You will also briefly describe your community’s history. You can make a timeline that highlights the important events/dates in your community’s evolution or write a narrative of its history. Once again, you will draw upon the data you collected from your community, existing data sources (like the Census), and your research. You will also cite your sources.
- **Where can you find this community?** Every community, whether place-based or not, has a spatial component to it. Where are you most likely to find members of your community? You will highlight three places where community members gather. For each place, you must provide a description, some sort of mapping or address (tell us how it relates to the other two places), and the reasons why it is important to your community. You should include maps, photos, and illustrations in this section and also incorporate the data you collected from your research.
- **How is your community impacted by the larger society it is a part of?** What larger-scale social forces have shaped your community? Have you been dispersed because of globalization? Has gentrification changed the make-up of your community? Is urban renewal a part of your community’s past? Have economic changes influenced where and how people live? Does technology play a role in how members relate to one another? You will identify at least one larger-scale social force that has shaped your community. You will demonstrate how your community has been influenced by the larger communities it is a part of by using data, quotes, observations, etc. that you collected from community members. You should also include references to course readings and other source and will fully cite this information.

- **Challenges to your community:** Identify a conflict or issue that your community is currently facing. This issue/conflict/challenge could be a result of the social forces you identified in the previous section, or it could be a more contemporary problem. This issue may be impacting your community in positive, negative, or neutral way. What is the source of this problem? How is it affecting your community? How do community members feel about it? What are some possible solutions? Again, draw upon your research and conversation with community members in this section. Your challenge in this section is to think critically about your community. How would an outsider see it? How do insiders feel about it?
- **The future of your community:** The concluding section of your travel guide will focus on the future of your community. Given the issues that you addressed in the social forces/challenges section, what type of future do you envision for your community? Where will it be ten years from now and why?

Remember, your travel guide should be as interactive as possible. It does not need to have fancy bells and whistles, but it should not just be a text document. Please include graphs, charts, maps, photos, illustrations, etc. Your reader should not only be able to learn about your community, they should also be able to get a sense of what it “feels like.” Do your best, be creative, and most importantly, have fun!

****Please note. The Community Travel Guide assignment is due on Monday, Week Six. In order to help get you started on this project, please complete the following two sections:**

1. **2. Choose your topic community:** Remember, you must be a member of this community and this group needs to fit the definition of community. Because you will need to collect data from community members, you should try to come-up with a fairly limited-size community to focus on. For example, rather than looking at the city of Portland, focus on a neighborhood; instead of examining soccer fans, choose fans of a particular team; if you are part of a religious group, focus on a particular place of worship.

I will focus on the _____ community for my Travel Guide assignment.

1. **3. Outline your research plan:** How will you collect the data you need to complete this project? You may be able to use information from an existing data set or you might have to collect your own. If you are focused on a place-based community in the United States, you can find demographic information on the U.S. Census website (www.census.gov, enter your zip code) or its equivalent in other nations. If you are part of a group would not be included in an existing data set, you might have to conduct a short survey/poll with members of your community. You do not have to collect data from your entire community; you can select a smaller *sample* of community members (depending upon your community’s size, a sample of 10-15 should be sufficient) as long as that sample basically represents your community as a whole. In addition to demographic and numeric data, you may also want to interview community members. Again, you don’t have to interview the entire community; just a few members would be fine. You can focus on community leaders or interview members that are representative of the group. You may also need to refer to published articles, websites, or books for this assignment. If you use information from any published source (including the U.S. Census), you must cite it in your final piece. You need to cite your sources within the text and at the end. For more information about citations, please refer to the OWL website (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2>) or to the video guides on citations at the PSU Writing Center (<http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/resources/video/index.php>). You may use MLA, APA, Chicago, or any other established citation format for this project. Just be consistent.

MY COMMUNITY TRAVEL GUIDE RESEARCH PLAN:

- **Introduction:** I will collect data about the definition, boundaries, shared values/experiences of my community by:

- **Description:** I will focus on the following three data points:

I will collect data on my community’s demographics by:

I will collect data on my community's history by:

- **Gathering places:** I will identify/describe these three places using data from:
- **Impact of the larger society:** I will identify the impacts that larger scale social forces have on community by looking at or collecting the following information from the following sources:
- **Challenges facing the community:** I will identify the challenges currently facing my community by looking at or collecting the following information from the following sources:
- **Future of my community:** I will consider the future of my community by drawing upon the following sources/research:

Please turn-in sections 2 & 3 (topic and research plan) to the Dropbox by Friday, Week 2.

Attachments:  [CTG topic and research plan.pdf](#) (95.19 KB)

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