Understanding Culture in Individuals  
EDFS 201

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Assignment Description
Part of the focus for this course is to better understand the interplay of culture in schools, classrooms, and individuals. This particular two-part assignment will help you reflect upon (1) yourself as a bearer/disseminator of a culture and (2) the influence education has had on your life. To get you thinking about this assignment, consider the following questions:

1. To your knowledge, approximately, how long has your family been in the United States? When (approximately) did they arrive? From where did they come? Did they come voluntarily?
2. What is considered your family’s home base in this country? How did the family happen to settle there? What other places did your family live before settling in that location?
3. What is the economic history of your family? In what kinds of work have members of our family engaged?
4. What is the educational history of your family? When did family members first begin to avail themselves to formal schooling?
5. What ethnic label does your family use to describe itself? What adjustments have family members had to make in order to be accepted in the wider American society?
6. Consider other sources of influence on your cultural background (for example, the development of your political affiliation, your religious affiliation, and your views on society’s ideals, etc.). What role do these influences play on your views of yourself as a cultural being? What relationship, whether contradictorily or complimentary, have these developing views had with your experiences throughout your pre-K through college education?

Part I: You are to complete a creative piece (poem/dramatic monologue/song/collage/painting/photography/10-song “celebrity” playlist) related to your role as a culture bearer. In addition to turning in your project to me, be prepared to present it to your classmates in 3 to 5 minutes. The presentation should include your family background (as indicated in the above questions) and a reading/performance of your poem/dramatic monologue/song or explanation of your artwork or playlist. This assignment will be discussed in class and specific directions will be provided.

Part II: You are to write a short one- to two-page, double-spaced reflection on this activity following the presentations.

If you would like to express your understanding of culture in individuals in another creative manner, please see me to discuss alternatives.

Part I Due: September 6th  
Part II Due: September 13th
Assignment Criteria
Your work will be evaluated on how well you have identified and addressed each of the criteria listed below.

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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| **Self Awareness:** Family Background | Clearly identifies and describes own:  
  - Ethnic heritage  
  - Gender  
  - SES Background  
  - Language background |
| | _____/7 |
| **Self Awareness:** Bearing Cultural Values and Beliefs | Reflects on the sources of influence on one’s own cultural beliefs and values  
  Reflects upon how one’s own cultural beliefs and values are carried and transmitted to others |
| | _____/7 |
| **Concept of Education** | Clearly states the influence education has had on one’s life, including one’s values and beliefs |
| | _____/7 |
| **Creativity** | Creatively expresses the above ideas through poetry, art, music, playlist, etc. |
| | _____/7 |
| **Presentation & Reflection** | Presents succinctly in three to five minutes  
  Reflects thoughtfully and critically on the assignment, both professionally and personally |
| | _____/7 |
| **Overall Assignment** | Obviously puts thought, time, and care into the project, presentation, and reflection (no grammatical errors, typed (double-spaced), etc.  
  Neat and organized |
| | _____/8 |
| **Total** | _____/50 |