

Group Island Symbolic Identity Speech

Negotiating Symbols to Create a Group Identity

Assignment: Before we study other cultures we need to reflect on our culture and how our personal identity was formed. Students will work together to form the language, rules and rituals of their own island. The island must incorporate symbols from each of the members. Students will first reflect and investigate personal symbols that represent their unique cultural existence. Students will then come together to negotiate how they will run their island. Together they must name their island, create a unifying flag with symbols and colors that represent the founders of the island (the group members). After the duties of governance for the island are negotiated each member will create a 2 to 4 minute presentation that will explicate their cultural background and how it was incorporated into the island culture. To prepare for this presentation think about the many perceptions you have, the cultures you participate in, the people with whom you associate and the rituals you enact. All of these have molded you into the person you are today. Consider all of the areas of identity that we have and will cover in class. (ethnicity, age, gender, physical abilities, religion, sexual orientation, social affiliations and others) Research areas of your cultural background in order to give context to the rituals, foods, and symbols that are important to you. Then as a group think about your island and the rules, language, maybe a motto, and rituals that will be specific to your island. Your group members are the founders of the island, each could play a role (e.g. Mayor, President, Queen, Historian, Rock Star, or even the local Celebrity – get creative). Pretend you are designing a country of all of your symbols and beliefs, then design your flag or coat of arms to represent the important elements in your country. Be creative but thoughtful.

Graded criteria:

Outline

- Outline must be in the format shown in class
- Three main points (1. Your role on the island which must include your duties, 2. Verbal and nonverbal elements from your island, 3. Rituals AND your symbol must be mentioned in one of the three main points)
- Typed in acceptable font
- Two pages minimum, four pages maximum

Reference Page

- Three sources cited in APA format.
- One of the sources MUST come from one of the Academic data bases accessed through the library online sources.

Visual aid – Flag or Coat of Arms

- Design a flag that represents the Island
- Flag must brought to class, NOT in digital format
- Words optional (no more than 3 words allowed)
- Colors and images chosen in a meaningful way (think of colors, and symbols that connect each member to the island – do not copy a flag or coat of arms personalize this to make it a one of a kind design)

Presentation

- Each person must speak for 2 to 4 minutes
- clearly present and follow structure
- verbally cited sources
- Flag – creativity and use of symbols apparent