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College of DuPage
HRAF PROJECT
ANTHROPOLOGY 1100**

You have been assigned a culture somewhere in the world which is represented with information in the **HRAF (Human Relations Area Files)**. The files may be found on *microfiche* in the College of DuPage Library. Some files are on *e-hraf*. Dan Blewett, a librarian, will tell you how to use these files during your class's Library Day. ***It is important that you attend this Library Day session.***

Your assignment is to collect information about this culture on the following topics:

- **Geographic location** – point out the location (world area, region in a country) and describe it briefly as people would live in it (e.g. landforms, climate and vegetation, resources for living or income-earning);
- **Basic traditional economic activities** (e.g. how people earned their livelihoods), including what they ate as a **staple food** (This is not to be a list of country exports.);
- **Basic traditional social structure** (descent system, residence pattern, and marriage pattern) and changes in these today,
- **Political position** of the people in the country (or countries or area) in which they live (not a list of country political officers or bureaus),
- **A ritual / ceremony (religious) or a symbol** (religious) that is important in the culture, especially that involves basic staple foods and kinship groups.
- **How the culture has changed**; e.g. how people earn their livings today and what wars or other disasters or changes in the country in which they live have influenced their lives today.

For Honors Students only (Ignore these unless specifically directed to discuss them.):

(Honors Seminar: Ethnicity and Oppression) How these people identify themselves (or others identify them) as unique or as a particular culture or people

(Honors Seminar: Space and Place) Description of some place that is significant to these people, e.g. their village, a historical or religious site, a house, etc.

(Honors Seminar: Education and Anthropology) Description of how children in this society learn their culture

(Honors Seminar: Language and Culture) Language the people speak and information about language & culture

Honors Ethnicity students: Include history, current demography and location, political situation of your people

Honors Food and Culture students: Include how staple food(s) are prepared; describe a ritual or symbol related to food

This information is to be presented orally to the class (5 minutes maximum) and written up (typed) in a 2 – 3 page paper (max. 750 words) to be passed out to the class and also handed to me. (See your syllabus for the points involved.) Be sure to make your presentation good and interesting. Look at us. Have pictures, etc.

Alternatively, have a 2-3 page paper for me and a one-page fact sheet/outline (including enough information to be useful) for classmates and for me. More information on other topics than those named above will not give your paper a higher grade, but a few neat facts (e.g. what are your “people” famous for?) can make your paper more interesting. Including extensive information that anyone could look up in an encyclopedia to “pad” your presentation will not give you a higher grade. (This is NOT to be a lengthy paper.) The due dates of the presentation and paper are shown on the class schedule for the term. **Make sure that you include a bibliography of the sources you used** (with complete standard bibliographic entries, **not just HRAF numbers and letters**) **with both the paper and fact sheet. The bibliography is worth points in itself and should include at least three sources, two of which have to be from HRAF files.** You may be asked to meet with students researching other peoples similar in some ways to do a comparison of the cultures you have researched (if we have time) or this might be done in as a whole class. An essay and test questions will be based on the classroom presentations, so make your information for fellow students useful.

Pay attention to this:

*A good presentation will not be just your paper or outline, read aloud. **Tell the information.*** Make sure you have some “attention-grabbing” facts. You can use cards, but only glance at them; don’t read them. Vary your voice and use pauses effectively. Speak loudly enough. Check location of “your people” ahead of time, as well as pronunciation of words. Pass around a map, pictures, etc., or use a short video clip, whatever will make your presentation more

meaningful and interesting. Do not expect to use powerpoint for such a short presentation.