

Elements of Culture:

Culture: everything that makes up a person's entire way of life

1. Social Structure
 - Family patterns - nuclear family (mom, dad, children), extended family (many generations living in same household working together)
 - Elder's place in society
 - Social classes - is there an upper, middle and lower class? Status - what gives people in your tribe/culture status?
 - How does your tribe organize its members to meet needs?
2. Customs and Traditions
 - What customs and traditions does your tribe/culture honor?
 - Ceremonies?
3. Language
 - Language is the cornerstone of any culture
 - Spoken only? Written? How is it taught?
 - Different dialects?
 - Is your language alive in your culture or do only the elders speak your language?
 - How do you keep your language alive for younger generations?
4. Religion
 - How does your religion answer the basic questions about the meaning of life?
 - Are there more than one religion, causing conflict?
 - How does your culture practice their religion?
5. Form of Government
 - How is your tribe governed?
6. Cultural Expressions
 - Similar to customs and traditions, but more about how they express themselves culturally
 - How does your culture/tribe express their basic beliefs
 - Art, music, dance, literature

SENIOR PROJECT

1. Research Paper - research and write a paper (at least 8 pages long) that discusses your culture/tribe. Include the following:
 - Elements of culture: social structure, customs and traditions, language, religion, forms of government, and cultural expressions. (approx 4-6 pages – 1 page for each element)
 - Discuss someone that has impacted your tribe in a positive way, can be living or historical. explain what they did and how that affected how your tribe is now. (approx 1 page)
 - Reflection - reflect on the research and writing that you did. Include the answers to the following questions: (approx 2-3 pages)
 - What did you learn about your tribe that you didn't know before?
 - What questions do you have now that you have done some research?
 - What would you want to know more about?
 - Bibliography - if you cited something in your paper, make sure that you cite it correctly. Place it on a list of sources in the back. You must use at least 10 sources. These can be online, in person interviews with others from your tribe, the encyclopedia, books about your tribe, etc. **DO NOT use Wikipedia. This is not an acceptable scholarly source.**

Your paper should be typed, double spaced. Using Ariel or Times New Roman font, 12 pt. The margins should be 1" all the way around.

2. Project -- this is some sort of "take away" that would teach others about your tribe. The sky's the limit - creativity in how you get this teaching across will be a part of the rubric. You will be presenting the highlights of your research and this project to the panel (more info below). The more that you can get the panel involved in your presentation, the better it is.

Ideas:

- Brochure
- Poster
- Diorama
- Board Game
- Song, Dance
- Video
- Website
- Jeopardy Game

3. Presentation -- you will present your project to a panel of teachers, administrators and/or students

For this presentation you will need:

- Power Point Presentation - 10 slides max
 - You are presenting your research and paper – not reading from it. If you give the same number of slides for each section of your paper, you should be on track. See above for the page recommendations for each element.
- Project – the “take away” that you created to teach other people about your tribe.