

Un-Essay Due 12/7/2021

Goal: Allow you to engage with the material in any way you see fit and interests you. Your un-essay can focus on any topic you like, including topics we covered in class or even ones that are not covered in class. **It does have to relate to anthropology of sports**. We are happy to allow you some latitude in this. If you are unsure about your topic, you might want to run it by us first.

Format: ANYTHING you want...suggestions below

Things you must turn in for this:

- 1) The un-essay itself - how you turn the un-essay in will completely depend on what you are doing (physically hand it in, email it, Canvas, in class demo or presentation, etc.). If you submit a file on Canvas, the file name must contain your name!
- 2) Project statement with citations (see below)
- 3) Self-assessment. The project statement and self-assessment can be in the same in-line submission on Canvas!

Why: Creativity is at the heart of what makes us human (See *The Human Spark* by Agustin Fuentes). Imagination and creativity allow us find answers to problems in unique ways. Even if 1,000 people looked at the same issue, you bring a unique and distinctive view to the question based on your personal lived experiences.

However, and quite sadly, creativity has been mostly “educated out” of us (see *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative* by Ken Robinson for more on this). This allows you to explore class materials and topics in a way that is salient to your own goals and interests.

Here are some excellent examples from previous classes – scroll to the bottom for the sports examples: <http://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/un-essay/>

Some Possible Formats

- Make a music video
- Make a series of songs (like a musical or opera).
- Write a play
- Create a series of cartoons or a comic book that illustrates something associated with this class - Watercolor/painting/charcoal artwork
- Create a website/Wiki about the topic
- Collect specific data and analyses/present it in a unique way
- Make a series of Buzzfeed style listicles or quiz (with a clickbaity headline!)
- Embroidery, pottery, knitting project
- Do a book review

- An interview and discussion with an athlete or someone who works with athletes
- Create an infographic
- Create lesson plans for different educational levels
- Do a presentation or interpretive dance
- Do a sculpture, painting, or needle point
- Conduct an interview with an expert
- Make a board game. I have guidelines for this: <https://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/teaching/teaching-activities/human-evolution-board-game/>
- Create a game show
- Create an infographic
- Cookbook
- Utilize the new, awesome Marble digital collection (<https://marble.nd.edu/>). You can even create your own portfolio: <https://marble.nd.edu/portfolios-about>
- The Snite Museum has a great collection of ancient Mesoamerican sports artifacts! You might want to utilize these. They also have a collection of Sports Illustrated photographs (both images that were published and those that never made it to the magazine). If so, you should contact Bridget Hoyt (hoyt.14@nd.edu).
- Zine - <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/in-zines-lgbtq-creators-find-a-place-to-tell-their-own-stories>

Project Statement

You must write a statement that explains what you did, why you did it, and how you went about producing, and the sources you used for the Un-Essay. This statement should be 1-2 pages long. **Also include your sources in this statement!**

Self-Assessment Questions

1. What did you learn?
2. What challenges did you face while completing this assignment?
3. How did you overcome these challenges?
4. How successful do you think you were with your final product?
5. What do you think you could have done better?
6. If you worked in a group, who were you partners? Was it successful? What were the advantages and disadvantages of working in a group on this assignment? How did you divide the workload?