

## 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 biological anthropology.** I am happy to allow you some latitude in this. If you are unsure about your topic, you might want to run it by me first.

**Format:** ANYTHING you want...there are 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 semesters: <http://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/un-essay/>

### **Some Possible Examples**

- 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 of a fiction book related to the class

- An interview and discussion with someone
- 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>
- Write a story (think docu-drama, so fiction but grounded in the science) about a fossil hominin – like this: [https://dreamerliteraryproductions.com/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-neanderthal-clan/?fbclid=IwAR0EWQUPthO1IZsfSTf4lxZ-ftLCFjymJTB9HUA60rthvA0\\_Wjf1eTR\\_JsE](https://dreamerliteraryproductions.com/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-neanderthal-clan/?fbclid=IwAR0EWQUPthO1IZsfSTf4lxZ-ftLCFjymJTB9HUA60rthvA0_Wjf1eTR_JsE)
- Debunk a bad science website – I have guidelines and examples of this: <https://sites.nd.edu/cara-ocobock/debunking-a-bad-science-website/>
- 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 with a partner, how did you break up the workload? How did the partnership work? Were there any issues?