ESSAY FOCUS
For this assignment, I invite you to explore various aspects of your academic discipline through research and self-reflection. My hope is that you will use your ethnography as an opportunity to discover more about your academic field, your role within it, why you have chosen this area of study, and what you might do in this field in your college and professional career. Below is a list of activities you will need to complete for your ethnography:

1. **Scholarly Research:** One of the best ways to discover what’s going on in your field is to read research other scholars and writers are producing. Plan on locating between 3-5 scholarly articles. At some point during the semester, you will share your articles with the class as well as write about them in your essay.

2. **An Interview with a Professional:** This can be a college instructor, an upper-level graduate student, a professional, or a qualified personal mentor. In your essay, you should both paraphrase and quote directly from your interview. You’ll also want to discuss in detail how getting to know this individual has given you insight into your discipline and your eventual role within it. Use this interview to help “frame” the way you look at your discipline.

3. **Field Research and Observations:** For this aspect of the essay, you should spend time observing an individual, group, club, class, or community that is representative of your academic field. Plan to observe this group/organization on 2 different occasions, if at all possible. You might join a late-night lecture group, attend a series of professional lectures, or sit in on a few upper-level courses. Be sure to take readable, detailed notes as you fulfill this part of the essay. *Be aware that previous experience in your field does not count toward your observations. Even if you belonged to a club associated with your discipline in high school, etc. you are still required to conduct fresh research.

4. **Reflection and Expression:** At some point in your essay, you’ll want to spend time discussing how the process of learning about your academic field has influenced your perceptions of it, how you see yourself becoming a part of this field, as well as your views concerning the larger local, regional, or global roles you see your field playing in academia and beyond. Your process of self-reflection can be either interspersed throughout your essay or discussed primarily in your introduction or conclusion. In your reflection, you should discuss the following:

   ✓ Why you chose this field of study.
   ✓ How reading various articles in your field has given you insight into your discipline.
✓ Requirements involved in attaining a degree in your field.
✓ Potential job opportunities.
✓ How learning about other academic fields from your classmates has increased your awareness of your discipline's role within academia and in the world around us. You should point to specific readings, articles, or in-class moments as you discuss this.

**DRAFT #1**
Although your first draft will be rough, it should demonstrate that you are moving toward creating a well-organized and meaningful essay.

Some questions you might address in this draft include:

- What about your discipline inspires or excites you?
- How did you learn about or get involved in your discipline?
- What do you already know about your discipline?
- What else do you need to learn about your field?
- What do you look forward to learning from your interview and field observations?

This draft may take any shape or form that you like. You may include an outline with this draft if you like, but it is not required.

**DRAFT #2**
This draft will still be rough, but should include the following:

- An introduction telling readers about your academic field, why you are interested in it, and what you have learned about it thus far
- Information about your interview and/or field research
- A variety of interview quotes (no block quotes unless necessary, please)
- An integration of at least one source from your field

Be sure that your essay demonstrates an awareness of audience. You can assume your reader has some understanding of your field, but doesn’t know everything.

**DRAFT #3**
This draft should have most of the major components of your final essay in place. You'll still be tweaking paragraphs, reorganizing, and revising, but I should see the final product emerging. This draft should build upon your first and second drafts as well as include:

- A discussion of your field notes/observations and what you learned from them
- Additional interview materials (both direct & paraphrased)
- A discussion of what you’ve learned from analyzing scholarly articles in your field
- Some reflective analysis
FINAL ESSAY
Your final essay should be a smart, polished, college-level essay that is “ready to go.” At this point, your essay should adequately address all of the aforementioned requirements as well as:

✓ Be free of grammatical errors
✓ Be logically organized
✓ Read smoothly and clearly
✓ Demonstrate a sophisticated, academic vocabulary
✓ Use transitional phrases and sentences
✓ Include a thorough discussion of your field notes, observations, and other activities
✓ Include a variety of interview materials
✓ Include information about what you’ve learned from reading scholarly articles
✓ Use reflective analysis
✓ Include a thoughtful and compelling conclusion
✓ Please—no essays longer than 10 pages
✓ *Include a typed transcript of your interview.* This should be placed at the end of your essay. Failure to attach this will result in an automatic 2 point deduction.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Draft #1 = Bring four hard copies to class and upload to Angel
Draft #2 = Bring three hard copies to conference
Draft #3 = Bring four hard copies to class and upload to Angel
Final Essay = Submit with final portfolio

USEFUL RESOURCES
• WSU Center for Advising and Career Development: [http://cacd.wsu.edu](http://cacd.wsu.edu)
# Essay #4: Personal Ethnography Rubric

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<tr>
<th>Introduction &amp; Thesis Statement</th>
<th>Interview, Field Research &amp; Observations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Introduction is unified; purpose of ethnography is clearly stated.</em></td>
<td><em>Interview demonstrates writer’s ability to effectively gather and report information; a variety of direct and paraphrased quotes are used; interview contributes to overall meaning and content of essay.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Research is in-depth and demonstrates writer’s understanding of what it means to work or be a member of a particular field. Observations contain “fresh” information based on detailed field research and note-taking.</em></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reflection</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Reflection is dynamic and shows that writer has undergone a learning process through research, writing, and self-reflection.</em></td>
<td><em>Essay is well-organized; topic sentences guide readers through essay; each paragraph is unified.</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>Grammar, Readability &amp; Documentation</th>
<th>Overall Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Effective standard English usage—few mechanical errors. Sentence-variety and a nuanced vocabulary are used. Writing style is engaging and informative.</em></td>
<td><em>Essay is engaging and thoughtfully written. All required components are present. Essay demonstrates writer’s personal investment in materials and research. Ideas and information are gathered and presented in a meaningful way.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Research is cited according to the citation style appropriate to discipline. All sources are appropriately cited in the text and on works cite page.</em></td>
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