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Essay: Family Cultural Capital

Guidelines for Essay on the Cultural & Social Capital Strengths of Your Family:

Length of paper, two pages.

Deadline: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 by 9:00 pm.

In your essay please provide two examples of cultural capital and two of social capital. This is an important part of your grade since it gives me an idea of the degree to which you understand what cultural and social capital.

Write a minimum 2- page essay, double spaced and typed paper, analyzing how your parent's cultural capital and your social capital from your primary/high school experiences (role models such as counselors, couches, teachers) motivated and encouraged you to go to college and to be a successful student. Write the essay in the first person. (Using "I")

Start the essay with background information about yourself and your family. Tell me whatever you like about your family but please make sure to answer the following questions: Where they were born or what country they migrated from. Where were your parents and grandparents born? Why did they immigrate to the United States? How many brothers and sisters did your parents and grandparents have? If they migrated--how old were they when they migrated?

The set of questions are meant as a guide and not an interview. In other words do not write your essay in a question and answer format. I provided the following set of questions to get you started and to have some idea of your family background.

What kind of family organization did you grow up in, e.g. male-female household, divorced household, extended household, female-headed household or male headed household? What is the educational background of your parents' and grandparents'? What kind of work do your parents do? What kind of work do your grandparents do? If they are retired, tell me what they did. Do your parents and grandparents feel are important characteristics for you to succeed? What are some of the essential values you grew up with?

Where did you grow up? How many siblings do you have and what are they doing with their lives? Where is your place in the birth order? From your perspective how successful are your brothers and sisters? In your experience, what traits do you need to have to succeed in college? Do you feel you received the support you needed at home and in school? Who has been your primary support system? Please give examples.

What kind of school did you go to: Private, Public, or Catholic school? What have your educational experiences been like at City College and the other colleges you attended? Have you gotten to know any of the professors? Are you comfortable talking to

professors? What are your career aspirations? What kind of traits do you feel are important for you to succeed? What are some of the convictions/motivations that keep you going? What are some key activities and individuals that have supported you and helped you in navigating college and pursuing the field you're interested in? Based on your personal experiences, what advice would you give a student that is starting college?

Remember the focus of this essay is on your family cultural capital and the social capital outside of your family.

In writing your essay it will get you points in your grade if you refer to the articles I asked you to read for this assignment, the classroom discussion, and the video I asked you to watch. You do not have to refer to the readings or video extensively. The purpose of the readings and videos is to help you understand cultural and social capital and how to identify it in and outside of your immediate family.

I understand that some students have difficult lives, and everyone has not been encouraged to finish high school and go on to college, therefore; please feel free to write about your positive and negative experiences in school. In some cases, negative experiences in school motivate us to succeed as well. At the end of the essay, If you wish you can write a little about your COVID experiences and how that has affected the quality of your education.

Readings:

- [The Protective Role of Social Capital and Cultural Norms in Latino Communities: A Study of Adolescent Births.”](#)
- [America’s Hispanic Children: Gaining Ground, Looking Forward; this is an online book located in Black Board\), pp. 1-22.](#)
- [The Cultural Strengths of Latino Families](#)

Other Resources:

Below are suggestions for podcasts, YouTube videos, articles, and scholarly journals that would be beneficial:

Podcasts:

1. [Latino USA](#) - Hosted by Maria Hinojosa, this podcast covers current issues and cultural narratives that affect the Latinx community in the U.S. Topics include immigration, identity, and social justice.
2. [Code Switch](#) - This NPR podcast addresses race, ethnicity, and culture in the U.S., with episodes focusing on Latinx experiences, such as the impact of immigration policies and cultural identity.
3. [In The Thick](#) - Hosted by journalists of color, this podcast offers critical perspectives on politics, media, and the Latinx community, often discussing the intersection of race and identity in the U.S.

YouTube Videos:

1. **TEDx Talks - The Latinx Experience** - Features various speakers discussing Latinx identity, immigration, and the challenges faced by the community in the U.S.
2. **The Latinx Project at NYU** - Offers a range of lectures, panels, and interviews exploring Latinx art, culture, and politics in urban settings.
3. **PBS NewsHour - Latinx in America** - A series of in-depth reports on the social, economic, and political challenges faced by the Latinx community in the U.S.

Articles:

1. **“The Hispanic Challenge” by Samuel P. Huntington** - This controversial article explores the idea that the growing Latinx population poses a challenge to the American identity. It’s a useful piece for critical discussion.
2. **“Latino Families in the United States: Family Structure and Process in an Era of Family Change” by Ronald Angel & Jacqueline Angel** - This article examines the changes in family structures within the Latinx community.
3. **“Becoming Hispanic: Mexican Americans and Whiteness” by Julie A. Dowling** - Discusses the complexities of racial identity among Mexican Americans and the broader Latinx community.

Scholarly Journals:

1. **Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology** - Features scholarly articles on Latinx cultures, histories, and identities, particularly in the context of migration and diaspora.
2. **Latino Studies Journal** - A leading journal that covers a wide range of topics including the sociology of Latinx communities, cultural studies, and politics.
3. **Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences** - Publishes research on the behavioral and social issues affecting Latinx populations, including educational outcomes, family dynamics, and cultural identity.

These resources will provide a rich foundation for exploring the multifaceted experiences of the Latinx community in urban America, and they align well with the themes of your course.



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