Narrative Paper Project

***"Out of shared telling and remembering grow identity, connection, and pride, binding people to a place and to one another." Tom Rankin, Folklorist***

***"[Tradition-bearers] are living links in the historical chain, eye witnesses to history, shapers of a vital and indigenous way of life. They are unparalleled in the vividness and authenticity they can bring to the study of local history and culture." Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Folklorist***

**Part 1:**

**Cultural Marker** **Exercise** (WNB 1-2, 1-3): This is an excellent exercise to get you thinking about your own cultural heritage and to gain respect and understanding for the cultural identity and heritage of others. **Purpose**: To identify and report on an item (object, photo) that serves an important role in your own cultural (ethnic, family, regional) identity. **Assignment**: Choose an object or photo that you feel helps define who you are and/or where you are from. *Write at least one page* (WNB 1-2) about the item’s significance. (For instance, consider a family heirloom — a photograph of your grandparents, an old tool used by your father, a piece of lace from a wedding gown — that speaks to your family’s roots. How does this item help explain your life and culture?) *Be prepared to give a three-minute presentation about this item.* Plan to bring the item with you if possible, or take a photograph of it on your phone or device and bring that. Take three minutes to present your cultural marker to your group. Then break into pairs and take turns interviewing one another, using the cultural markers as points of discussion. *Record the information you collected from your interview* (WNB1-3). Reflect on how you might improve your interviewing skills.

[Source: *folklife.si.edu/resources/pdf/CulturalMarkerExercise.pdf*]

**Part 2:**

**Narrative Essay:** Following the StoryCorp models [Storycorps.org], Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide [http://www.folklife.si.edu/education\_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx], write an effective narrative essay about some event or someone who has affected, influenced, or inspired you. Here are the specifics:

* **Paper Length:** approximately 900 words. **Insert word count in your paper**.
* Include a **photo** in your paper.
* **Participate in peer review.**
* **Revise** using your peer comments and other feedback you receive.
* **Submit** final copy along with your WNB work and drafts.
* Order your work this way: Revised Paper [with word count], drafts with peer comments, then WNB.
* Follow MLA requirements and specific formatting instructions from me. Disregard MLA rules on captions for pictures.