

APPENDIX D

CULTURAL ARTIFACT ASSIGNMENT

WHAT IS IT IN GENERAL?

- ◆ A printed *image* of something from your past that has played a role in your socialization.
- ◆ Represents a piece of yourself, perhaps relating to your hobbies, career goals, education, etc.
- ◆ Allows the viewer of the artifact to know something about you by the image and critical reflection.

WHAT IS IT PHYSICALLY?

- ◆ Can be a *picture* of a book cover, film, album, toy, game, musical instrument, etc.
- ◆ A picture of an *object*, and not a picture of an entire environment, place, or person.
- ◆ Can be a whole printed page, or just a *half-page* with the *half-page* reflection below it.

WHAT IS THE REFLECTION?

- ◆ **Length** – A *half-page* or more summary and reflection of *what* the artifact is, *what* it means to you in terms of your development/socialization, and *how* it ties in with class themes, issues, and terms.
- ◆ **Terms** – Should utilize at least *two* class key terms or concepts in each reflection that tie into the object's cultural and developmental meanings to you, thus relating to basic class themes.
- ◆ **Format** – Should be *single-spaced*, typical *12-point font*, and in *formal academic writing* that is not so much conversational as it is reflective, sincere, intelligent, and proofread.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

- ◆ To get you thinking critically about the composition of yourself, as “critical thinking” is the theme of this class and requires you to understand the factors of individual development.
- ◆ To point out some aspects of how you were raised, how you discovered hobbies or interests, how you grew to *internalize* various viewpoints and values, and it will thus be a window into the “self.”

WHAT WILL IT ACCOMPLISH?

After each reflection, it should become clearer to you how you were and are socialized, which will help you understand that each individual is composed by a variety of factors which constantly evolve us in terms of our surroundings. With a better understanding of such socialization, we can better place ourselves in the shoes of others to think critically

about *their* socialization, viewpoints, and traditions. Essentially, we are, in part, seeking to understand ourselves better to improve interactions with other individuals and societies who will have a variety of conflicting ideologies.

WHEN AND HOW IS IT DUE?

- ◆ **When** – Drafts are due in class, specified on the schedule, and all together in the final portfolio.
- ◆ **How** – In your *portfolio* (see handout), with other documents, as discussed.
- ◆ **Questions** – While I have tried to cover everything, I welcome further questions via email or in class!