

# HD Portfolio Instructions and Template

## Cultural Autobiography

Explore and interrogate researcher positioning (adapted from material by Marybeth Peebles, Marietta College:

To better understand researcher positioning, you will create a Cultural Autobiography that explores the sociocultural factors that inform your own positioning.

There are many facets that contribute to our identity. All of us belong to many cultural groups and subgroups, and our identity is based on 1) the relation between us and the dominant groups/subgroup, and 2) on the interaction among groups/subgroups.

In your cultural autobiography, you must address many aspects of your identity. It is not enough merely to state, for example, that you are a White, Irish American, English-speaking male etc. or a second-generation Chinese American, multilingual female who was raised in a middle-class family etc. You must take each cultural group/subgroup one at a time and explain how your membership in a particular subgroup has helped to create the kind of person you are and is likely to influence the ways in which you perceive the world and those around you. Begin with the cultural group/subgroup that currently has the most impact on your identity and work down to the least influential group/subgroup. This should take some careful thinking. The cultural groups/subgroups below should be used to help you work through your cultural positioning.

## Cultural Group/Subgroup

\*= immutable

\*\*= the dominant subcultures

### Class (socioeconomic status)

- Under class- below poverty level, homeless
- Working class-lower middle class, blue collar
- Middle class-white collar and low-level managerial/administrative\*\*
- Upper middle class-professionals, high-level managerial/administrative
- Upper class-professionals, top-level managerial/ administrative, inherited wealth and social status

### Race \*

- Caucasian (White) \*\*
- African American (Black)
- American Indian, Eskimo
- Asian/Pacific Islander Hispanic
- Other