

The goal for this assignment is to understand how our daily interactions impact how we identify ourselves. In chapter 1 of the textbook the author brings up the concept of "cultural identity." She defines this as, "situated sense of self that is shaped by our cultural experiences and social locations" (p. 302). Basically, our identities are shaped by our interactions with others. Since we live in a globalized world, we are interacting more frequently with people beyond our own cultures. Thus, this assignment is aimed at engaging this concept from a lived experience perspective.

Skills: In this assignment you will:

- Use communication theory to explain communication phenomena.
- Analyze the relationship between communication and culture by reflection on your own daily interactions.
- Explain how various people (sometimes other cultures) contribute to your own identification.
- Describe and explain how race, ethnicity, class, gender, religion, sexuality, and other markers of social identity impact life experiences and social relations.
- Learn how to write "thick description" by reflecting on daily interactions.
- Create and build data off of social interactions.

Knowledge: This assignment will also help you to become familiar with the following important content knowledge in this discipline:

- cultural identity
- positionality
- intersectionality
- cultural spaces
- body politics
- ascribed/avowed identity

Task

I recommend you start this assignment as soon as the semester begins. There are two parts to this assignment: A Log of Interactions, and a Narrative. To complete this assignment, you will have to log all interactions you have with people for a total of three weeks. Keep an honest and unforced/unfiltered log of your interactions with others over the course of the three weeks, and then write your narrative. There will be no judgment here at all – this is simply an exercise to get you to reflect more closely on your own experience and the cultural forces that shape it! Some of us might not interact with many people unless forced to by environments such as work or school. That is okay, you should still log who you engage in conversation with and for what purposes.

The goal for this assignment is to keep a log of how you experience your cultural identity, ethnicity, gender, class, and group membership, place you live, or lifestyle in relation to others. Ideally this log will have specific topics of discussion or even direct quotations of the conversation that took place. This can be considered your “data” that you can use to build your personal narrative. In the past, students didn’t take this part too seriously and without the “data,” the narrative (Part II) became harder to write. To complete this assignment you should provide a word document or PDF with a log that looks something like this:

Person	Date/Time/Place	Topic of Discussion	How identity was experienced
John	6/4/22, noon, online	Played video games online and caught up with a friend	I tend to focus mostly on my pop culture identity in this friendship. We talk about games, comics, movies, fan theories, etc.
Jane	6/12/22, 9amish?, CSUN	Meeting on campus	She is a colleague friend of mine; we have joint meetings and we chat afterwards. Today we talked about what we plan on doing over break and we even got into talking about current events. In this interaction I am experiencing my professional identity as an academic/scholar we can be political and have an informed discussion.

Note: I am looking for **at minimum 15 substantive log entries**. This means you are providing as much detail as possible for these interactions. You can have direct quotes from the conversation, to the type of clothing the person was wearing, to a description of the setting in which this interaction took place. This level of detail is

called "thick description." The more entries you have in the log the easier the narrative will be. Again, these interactions can be in any medium: online gaming, zoom, face to face conversations, etc. And they can be with anyone, the focus is on tracking who you choose to engage in conversations with: your close friends, your favorite coworkers, family members, significant others, etc.

Criteria

Once submitted, I will be grading your work with the following criteria:

- Organization (5 points)
- Content (15 points)
- Description (25 points)
- Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (5 points)

I want to add that my nationality is **Armenian** , cose it is very important for this assignment in what culture I belong to. Thanks.