Honors English 10 Cultural Research Summer Assignment: A Project in a few parts

Goals: Understand what culture is and how it influences an individual's decisions and opinions; experience writing from a variety of authors from different cultures and continents and analyze the development of ideas; design personal connections to the texts in order to reflect on your own culture and its influence on your identity.

Part 1: Understand Culture (25 points)

Part 2: Compare and Contrast Cultures (35 points)

Part 3: Make it Personal (40 points)

*Submit this completed packet **on/before the first class**. You may complete it by hand or typed, though the links you will need to access electronically. Either way, your work should be neat and legible and should be YOUR OWN. This is NOT a collaborative experience, nor should you turn to AI to complete this. The work you submit is subject to the TGS Academic Integrity policy. You can tackle this assignment in pieces or all at once. It will be counted as a test grade of 100 points for Quarter 1.* ***When we meet in August, be prepared to discuss and share your findings from your stories.***

Please join our Google Classroom: ggiapvec.

I'm looking forward to our year together! Have a great summer!

\- *Mrs. Sosnicki*

Part One:

Directions-Watch this video (linked in the Google Classroom Assignment) and respond to these questions in complete, detailed, grammatically correct sentences. Note that for several of the questions you will need to draw conclusions from what is said, rather than repeat what is said.

Grading: 5 points each based on the response accuracy and directions above.

1. How does the video define "culture," and what are the key components that constitute it?

2. How are cultural symbols reflective of a group? Why is it important to consider their meanings to different audiences?

3. According to the video, why is understanding culture important in today's globalized society? Consider factors such as communication and interaction between diverse groups.

4. What examples does the video provide to illustrate how culture influences individual behavior and societal norms?

5. How does the video explain the impact of cultural differences on communication and interaction between diverse groups?

Part Two:

A. Read **TWO** of the following short stories. Then, compare and contrast them in regards to **cultural elements, traditions, and cultural identity** in the Venn Diagram on the next page. You will need to use inference, context clues, and specific evidence to draw your conclusions. Details need to be ***specific***. Please utilize specific evidence (paraphrased with MLA citations) and/or quoted details to support your conclusions. (Stories are hyperlinked in Google Classroom).

"Two Kinds" by Amy Tan

- **Culture Focus:** Chinese-American immigrant experience.
- **Topics:** Parent-child relationships, cultural expectations, identity

"Saboteur" by Ha Jin

- **Culture Focus:** Post-Cultural Revolution China.
- **Topics:** Injustice, state power, personal freedom

"Borders" by Thomas King

- **Culture Focus:** Indigenous identity and borders.
- **Topics:** Nationality, identity, resistance.

"The Moment Before the Gun Went Off" by Nadine Gordimer

- **Culture Focus:** Nigerian
- **Topics:** Traditional marriage customs, individual vs ethnic identity

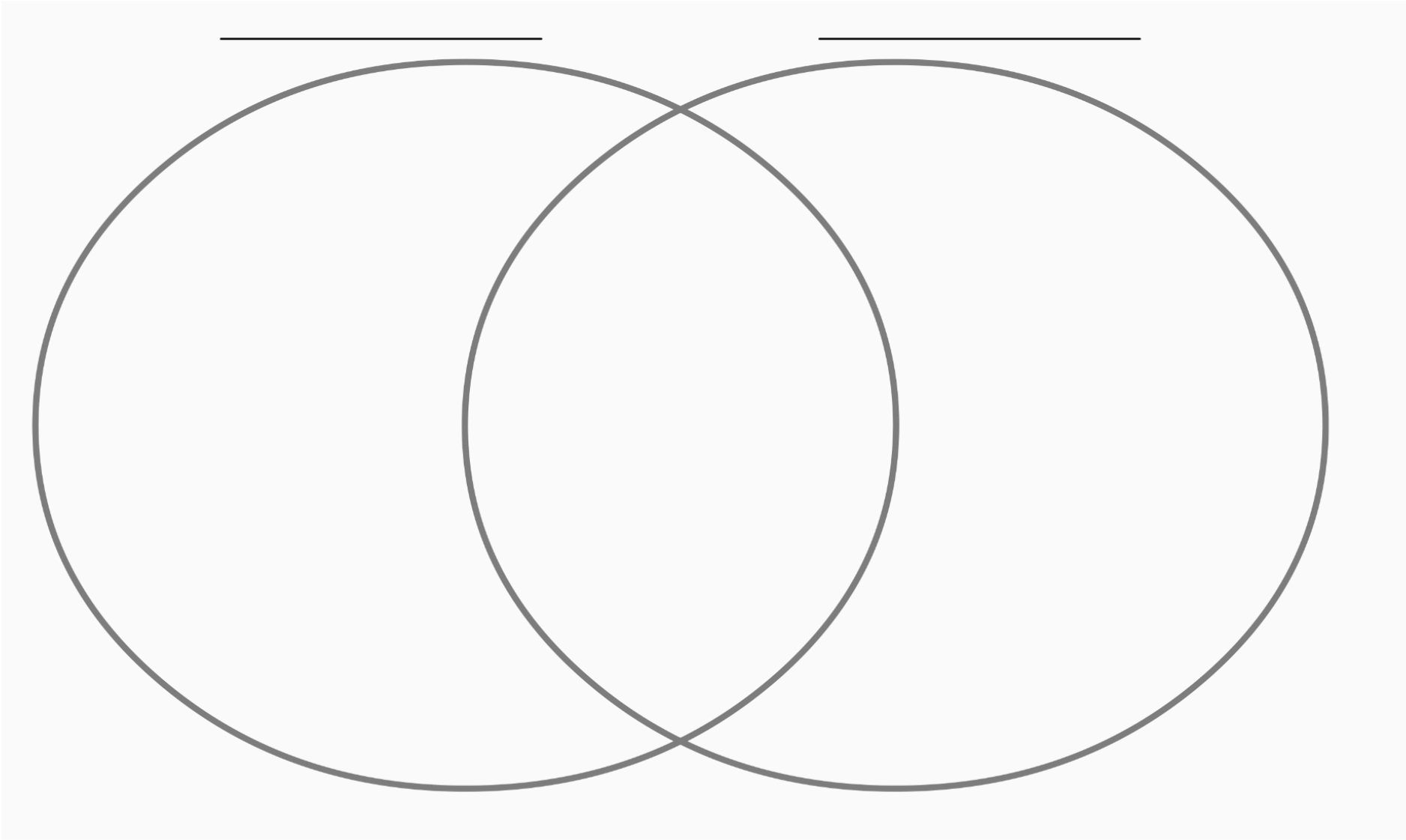
"Dyaspora" by Joan Hyppolite

- **Culture Focus:** Haitian
- **Topics:** immigration, identity, communication, tradition, alienation vs belonging

""My Aunt Gold Teeth" by V.S. Naipaul

- **Culture Focus:** Indo-Trinidadian
- **Topics:** Religion, Family roles, tradition, colonial influence

Venn Diagram



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B. Then, compare the stories to your own cultural identity and traditions in the table below. Be sure to specify which aspects from your chosen text(s) you are comparing and contrasting.

My Culture: Add detail and specificity.
Similarities:
Differences:

Part Two Grading:

Identification of Cultural Elements and Traditions (10 points) **Score: /10**	Clearly identifies **specific** cultural **elements, traditions, and aspects of identity** in **both** stories. Uses inference and context clues effectively to interpret underlying cultural meanings.
Use of Evidence from Texts (8 points) **Score: /8**	Provides detailed, **specific textual evidence** to support comparisons and contrasts. Quotes or paraphrases clearly linked to cultural aspects.
Quality of Venn Diagram Comparison (7 points) **Score: /7**	Accurately and reflectively compares and contrasts the two stories' **cultural elements and traditions**. The Venn Diagram is complete, clear, and well-organized.
Personal Cultural Comparison (7 points) **Score: /7**	Thoughtfully compares and contrasts the stories to personal cultural identity. Details are **specific** and **clearly linked to particular aspects** from the texts.
Clarity, Organization, and Specificity (3 points) **Score: /3**	The written responses (in the table and Venn diagram) are clear, organized, and focused. Details are specific, avoiding generalizations.

Score: /35

Part Three: Make it Personal

Choose **one** of the following two tasks about your own family, culture, and traditions (Please note that this creation should be thorough, detailed, and neat and will be part of your Culture Fair presentation at the end of the 10th grade year:

Task 1: Create a family tree that includes at least three generations of your family. ***Label*** the cultural background(s) and familial connections of each individual or family branch where known.

- Start with Yourself: Place your name at the bottom or center of the tree.
- Add Family Members: Include your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents if possible. Use lines to show relationships.
- Label Cultures: Next to each individual or family branch, write their cultural background (e.g., Mexican, Irish, Somali, Chinese, etc.). If there's a mix, include all relevant cultures.
- Visual Presentation: You may create your tree digitally (using tools like Canva, PowerPoint, or Google Slides) or draw it neatly by hand.
- Include a title for your family tree and a key if you use symbols or colors to represent different cultures.
- Be Respectful and Accurate: Ask family members for help if needed, and only include information you're comfortable sharing.

Task 2: Write a short memoir (a personal story with accurate and specific details) about **your family's culture and traditions.** This is NOT the same as writing a story about your family.

- Use strong adjectives and verbs to create imagery and SHOW your audience what your family values are, what is important to them, how they celebrate, etc. (What would we hear if we were there? What would we taste? What would we smell? Consider the senses).
- You SHOULD write this as a creative but true story.
- Therefore, you may write in first person.
- Your story should be approximately 3-5 paragraphs.

Task 1 Grading Rubric

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations 9-10	Meets Expectations 6-8	Approaching Expectations 4-5	Below Expectations 1-3
Accuracy & Detail	Includes full and accurate family members with clear relationships and well-researched cultural backgrounds.	Includes most family members with accurate relationships and cultural details.	Includes some family members; some relationships or cultural backgrounds may be unclear or missing.	Few family members are shown; relationships or cultural backgrounds are inaccurate or missing.
Cultural Representation	Clearly identifies all relevant cultures; includes mixed heritage where appropriate and uses a key or legend if symbols are used.	Identifies most cultures and uses a key or legend with minor errors.	Identifies some cultures; may be missing mixed heritage or legend for symbols.	Cultural backgrounds are vague or mostly missing; no key provided if symbols are used.
Visual Presentation	Visually engaging, neat, and well-organized; uses digital tools or hand-drawn elements effectively.	Mostly neat and organized; effort is clear; minor issues in layout or design.	Somewhat organized, but lacks clarity or polish in visual elements.	Disorganized or messy; lacks effort in design or clarity.
Respect & Reflection	Shows thoughtful consideration; demonstrates respect and sensitivity to personal and family identity.	Mostly respectful and thoughtful; minor omissions.	Some effort shown, but lacks depth or sensitivity in presentation.	Minimal effort or care; potentially careless with personal or cultural information.

Task 2 Grading Rubric

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations 9-10	Meets Expectations 6-8	Approaching Expectations 4-5	Below Expectations 1-3
Content & Cultural Insight	The story clearly and vividly reflects unique aspects of family culture and traditions. Deep insight into values and celebrations.	The story adequately reflects family culture and traditions. Values and celebrations are present and explained.	The story includes some cultural elements, but lacks depth or clarity about values or traditions.	Little or no clear connection to culture or traditions. May seem generic or unclear.
Use of Imagery & Sensory Detail	Uses vivid adjectives, strong verbs, and rich sensory language to fully engage the reader's senses. "Show, don't tell" is mastered.	Uses sensory details and imagery to engage the reader. Attempts to "show" rather than "tell."	Some imagery and sensory language present, but lacks consistency or clarity.	Limited or no sensory details. Language is flat or vague, with little attempt to "show" the experience.
Creativity & Voice	The student's voice is compelling and authentic. The story is engaging, unique, and creatively structured while staying true to real experience.	The student's voice is appropriate and personal. The story is organized and engaging with creative elements.	The student's voice is somewhat inconsistent or underdeveloped. The story may lack originality or have a confusing structure.	The student's voice is unclear or flat. The story lacks creativity or reads more like a list of facts than a narrative.
Mechanics & Organization	Well-organized with smooth transitions. Free of grammar/spelling errors. Sentence structure enhances readability.	Mostly well-organized. Few grammar/spelling errors. Sentence structure is clear and readable.	Organization is uneven or choppy. Several grammar/spelling errors. Sentence structure occasionally distracts.	Disorganized or difficult to follow. Frequent grammar/spelling issues. Sentence structure impedes understanding.