

ASSIGNMENT : "WHERE I AM FROM" PROJECT

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to honor the relevance and value of your own lived experiences as a student in higher education as a valuable source of knowledge.

Directions:

1. Read the narrative reflections of students in NASPA's Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program, found in Borrego and Manning's *Where I Am From*.
2. Complete the "Where I am from" experiential exercise.
3. Using the template or your own creative approach, develop a "Where I am from" piece. Consider (a) your experiences growing up (home, family, friends, and neighborhood), (b) your education in public/private/faith-based schools, and (c) your experiences thus far in higher education.
4. Reflect on where you "were" from "then"; and where you "are" from "now." Develop a written "Where I am From: Then and Now" piece. Following that, develop a 1-2 page reflection analyzing your journey from where your "roots" to your role now as a student in higher education. Discuss those factors which supported your entry into higher education and those that challenged you.
5. Hand in your creative piece and your analytic piece at the same time and be prepared to read/present it in class.

Due: Presentations and discussion May 5, 12 and 19.

Written pieces due May 14

STEP ONE [THEN]: WE ARE ALL POETS OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE: *WHERE I AM FROM*

Go back in your mind to your childhood and bring images to mind of things that you touched, smelled, tasted, heard, and saw? Try to recall as many sensory images as you can.

TOUCH	SMELL	TASTE	HEAR	SEE

Step One: The Past or Back Home

I am from _____ [specific ordinary item/object that you saw as a child], from _____ [another item, object, or product used] and _____.

I am from _____ [home description: common sight, smell, sound detail from your childhood].

I am from _____ [family tradition] and _____ [family trait], from _____ [name of family member] and _____ [another family name and _____ [family name].

I am from _____ [two food items representing your family].

From _____ [something you were told as a child] and _____ [another thing you were told].

I'm from _____ [place of birth] and _____ [family ancestry].

I am from the _____ [description of family member's habit or tendency that you remember] and _____ [another family tendency].

I am from _____ [a religious belief that you learned as a child or lack of it].

I am from the [plant, flower, natural item that you remember in or near your home], the _____ [plant, flower, natural detail].

From the _____ [a detail from a specific family story or about a specific person], _____ [another detail] and the _____ [another detail about another family member].

I am from _____ [location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more lines indicating their worth or value to you].

I am from _____ [your own detail, memory, sensory detail].

STEP TWO [NOW]: WE ARE ALL POETS OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE: *WHERE I AM FROM*

Think about your life right now: Where you live, your friends, your classes, your life at WWU, your life off campus, your activities and leadership roles, and your major and career plans. Bring images to mind of things that you touch, smell, taste, hear, and see every day? Try to recall as many sensory images as you can.

TOUCH	SMELL	TASTE	HEAR	SEE

Step Two: The Present or Now and Here

Now I am from _____ [specific ordinary item/object that you see every day], from _____ [another item, object, or product you use] and _____.

I am from _____ [common sight, smell, sound detail from where you live now].

I am from _____ [something you see or hear in your classrooms] and _____ [something you see or hear in your clubs, activities, or service projects], from _____ [name of friends] and _____ [another friend] _____ [another friend].

I am from _____ [two food items representing how I eat now].

From _____ [something you are taught now] and _____ [something you learned or believe now].

I'm from _____ [name of your major or your academic interest] and _____ [name of what you think you will do in your life].

I am from the _____ [description of an advisor, instructor, mentor who is important to you] and _____ [another advisor, instructor or mentor].

I am from _____ [how I see the world now; your political beliefs, your service philosophy, your outlook].

I am from the [natural items, plant, flower, that you like around Bellingham or near where you live], the _____ [another natural detail].

From the _____ [a detail or story about someone in your life here at school], _____ [another detail] and the _____ [another detail about another someone in your life].

I am from _____ [location where you live now, objects or mementos in your home now that have worth or value to you].

I am from _____ [your own detail, sensory detail of life NOW].