P2: Cultural Object Inquiry

For this project, you'll do research about a culture that you participate in, and use your research to write toward a purpose or main point about the culture, its values, and your and others' participation in the culture.

To work toward this goal, you will:
- inquire into a culture's values and practices by focusing on an everyday thing
- practice asking questions and doing research to find answers
- locate, evaluate, and use at least one source, and follow a citation style
- learn about your cultural participation or influences in relation to others
- communicate about your object and culture to an audience

Select an OBJECT that is part of a CULTURE and important to YOU

This project, like others in the course, is about discovery—that is, the goal is not to report on something you already know, but to set out to learn about something more, and to narrate your process of learning. You'll begin the process by **selecting a material thing—an object**–that has value in the culture(s) in which it participates.

For example, I might choose a guitar as my object. Through it, I might discover not only something about its value in my own life (How did I come to play guitar? Where do I play it now?) but also about a culture in which that object participates (amateur guitar players, local musicians, band members, friends in college dorms, summer camps attenders, church-goers, etc).

Keep in mind that even though you're using an object to help you think more broadly about cultural values and practices, your project will not only be about that object. **The project will be about a culture, and you in relation to others within that culture.**

What is a culture?

Culture can be defined in a lot of ways, and it is framed differently by different people. In general, culture functions as an overarching term for a group of people that share beliefs, values, or practices and have a group identity. Everyone is a part of many overlapping cultures, and these include (but are not limited to) cultures related to ethnicity, race, nationality, gender, or religion. It's also important to know that within cultures, there is still diversity of values and practices.

When you consider what culture you might want to write about for this project, think both small and big: you can explore a **micro-culture** or **sub-culture** (like a friend group or fan group), an **institutional culture** (like a workplace or a school), a **local culture** (like a neighborhood), or a **historical culture** (like a religious, ethnic, regional, or national culture).

You do not have to write about a "big" culture or community for this project, or any observable characteristic or trait that you have (such as your race, ethnicity, or gender identity) - unless you want to! This assignment invites you to explore aspects of the cultures and communities that relate to your learning, but please choose topics to write about that you are comfortable sharing with others, reflecting on, and learning more about.

Learning Outcomes for P2
- Students will learn about a culture or community and its values and practices through asking questions and doing research.
- Students will learn about themselves in relation to others and learn about their cultural influences
- Students will communicate about an object or culture to an audience, using evidence in the form of examples to support a specific purpose
- Students will participate in key writing processes: peer review, revision, and reflection

Proposal
The proposal for this project should address the following questions:
1. What object have you chosen? How would you describe it (especially to somebody unfamiliar with it)? Of all things, why did you choose this particular object?
2. What other objects did you consider, but decide NOT to use? Why did you make this decision?
3. Have you used this object with others? Who else would have such an object? Who else does NOT have such an object?
4. What culture is linked to this object that you might discuss in your project? How would you describe this culture?
5. What questions do you have about the culture or object? What kinds of research could you do to find answers to your questions?
6. What do you predict will be difficult about composing this project? What are you most nervous or worried about? On the other hand, what are you most confident about?

First Draft
Once you have reviewed your proposal and considered feedback on it, you'll compose a first draft for review. In class, we will give and receive feedback on first drafts.

Please include a **GenAI use statement** as a footnote within your draft and final draft about your use of GenAI technologies to assist you in this project. Your GenAI statement should detail *if, how, and why* you used GenAI.

Revision Plan
Your revision plan should address the following questions:
- What are your goals for the final version of your project?
- In what ways was your first draft successful—and not so much?
- What responses from your reviewers will (or will not) guide your revision and why?
- What is your plan for making revisions to your draft? In other words, what stays, what goes, what gets added, what gets altered?

Successful revision plans will make direct references to your proposals and first drafts and the comments from your peer reviewers. In other words, you will quote or paraphrase things you said in your proposal and draft and suggestions made by your reviewers.

Final Draft (grade weight)
Criteria for success:

1. The project has an identifiable purpose, main point, or takeaway about a culture and its values and practices.

2. The project includes evidence in the form of information and examples about the object, the culture, and your participation in the culture, and this evidence supports the main point.

3. The project includes evidence from at least one source and follows a citation style, and this evidence supports the main point.

4. The project is revised using feedback from others and reflection on your own work.

5. The length of the project is appropriate based on your purpose and audience (aim for SUGGESTED LENGTH).