

For the individual component of this assignment, you will observe a public ritual and identify its key components.

Complete this before you begin your group assignment.

Characteristics of a ritual may include:

- Action set apart or different in intent from that of everyday life,
- Symbolically charged cultural performance with prescribed and predictable forms of behavior, speech, and actions.
- An event or process of collective celebration or commemoration
- Routinized or patterned behavior that links time present with time past, future, or both

Some examples of ritual include religious services, marriage ceremonies, funerals, fraternity and sorority functions, graduations, and any social interactions where people follow a cultural script or a set of social roles .

Step One:

Attend and observe a ritual or something that may be defined as a ritual. This may be either a religious or secular ritual.

- Given the constraints of this moment, you should plan to attend this ritual virtually. If you attend an in-person ritual, it **MUST** be one in which people are outside and socially distanced.
- Be creative and use some imagination and take advantage of our region's cultural diversity in deciding on the ritual.
- This ritual must be public, and you must be welcome to attend.
- If you cannot attend a ritual as it is happening you may watch a recording of a ritual, but you must explain why you made this decision in your assignment *and* it cannot be a fictional depiction like a movie (documentaries are fine).

Step Two:

Document a ritual by taking detailed 'fieldnotes' during or immediately following the ritual noting the following:

- the setting where the ritual takes place, day, time, and the people involved
- the sequence of events in as great detail as possible
- the behavior of the participants or what people do
- the use of language or what people say
- the use of symbols and symbolism
- distinctions made between sacred and profane or secular objects
- any marked exceptions

Step Three:

1. Go back and underline in your fieldnotes the essential or key elements of this ritual. These should include at a minimum:
 - key symbols
 - symbolic accomplishments
 - authorized figures
 - repetitive practices
 - practices/ behaviors/ language set off from normal life
2. Finally, write 2-3 sentences about what the ritual is designed to *accomplish* and what features prove that it was a ritual.

You will turn in the following:

- Detailed fieldnotes with your underlined annotations. If these are handwritten, you can take and upload photographs
- Short description of the ritual including identification of where it was held, why you decided to observe this ritual, and what did the ritual accomplish or intend to accomplish? It might not be readily obvious, especially if it is a ritual that you've attended over and over in your life (like a Sunday church service).