Argue for the Community: Implications for the “we” of community

For this assignment you will synthesize the writing techniques you used in the previous two units (take a stand, use and evaluate rhetorical appeals, remember the basic principles of the rhetorical situation). Additionally, prior to writing this assignment, you will observe a community of your choice and collect fieldnotes. This collection of data will allow you to hone in on an idea or issue relevant, and worth arguing, for your community. Consider a specific issue/topic you are interested in, and one that you can research. Along with primary research, you will also conduct secondary research, which will include an initial annotated bibliography. In composing your argument, consider its implications for a broader audience and how it is relevant to a specific audience.

4 parts: Fieldnotes (see ethnography handouts/readings), Proposal (1-2 pages), Annotated Bibliography (at least 10 sources), and Essay (8-10 pages)

This essay—with all its components—is 25% of your final grade. While the first draft will not be graded, your efforts in drafting, revising, and participating in workshops will be considered when grading your final draft.

Part one: Fieldnotes

Your Role: Ethnographer/Researcher/Observer

Immerse yourself into a community and conduct observations of that community.

Your Task: Conduct observations of a specific community and takes notes. Then, make meaning of those notes. What are you learning about this community? What issues are raised? What problems could be solved? How will you argue for this community?

In recording fieldnotes, you should not only “take notes,” but also make meaning of those notes. What are the implications of your observations (See handouts/readings to help you with this part)?

Format: This will vary, depending on your preference of recording fieldnotes (consult class readings to guide you in this decision).

Due: Tuesday, March 11, 2014
Part Two: The Proposal

Your Task: From your interest in and observations of a given community, you should garner an angle for which to establish an argument. You will propose your research idea in 1-2 pages, and provide at least 3 initial resources that will help you to support your idea.

When reading your proposal, I will look for:

A clear and focused idea of what you would like to explore (primary and secondary research)

At least 3 sources that you think will be helpful to your research (you will eventually need scholarly/academic resources, so it may help to start looking on the library’s online database.)
*Note for your final draft, you will be required to have at least 10 resources, but for the initial stages, at least 3 is a good start. Just be prepared to do more research.

An explanation of why the sources you have found so far will be helpful.

A basic plan of how you intend to argue for a specific community (e.g. observations, interviews, secondary research, etc.)

Consider this: How is one community and its issues relevant to another community?

What communities do you belong to? What communities do you find important (think about where you live, where you come from, your major/career plans).

Due: Friday, Tuesday, March 14

Format:
1-2 pages (typed)
12 pt. font
Double Spaced
Correct citations (include a reference list or works cited page)

“There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something. You certainly usually find something, if you look, but it is not always quite the something you were after.”
— J.R.R. Tolkien