

Picturing Your Subculture Visual Representation Assignment

Guiding Questions:

- How do symbols represent an idea?
- How do we choose symbols for people, places, things, and ideas?

Goals related to Ethnography:

- Communicate your understanding of many elements of the subculture in one place.
- Analysis and interpretation
- Metaphor/metaphorical thinking
- Use multiple levels of thinking

Directions:

Step 1: View Niemeyer's Chart of Symbols as a mentor text.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/12/27/opinion/28opchart.html>

Step 2: You will create a 6x6 chart (add an extra row and column for labeling your categories on each axis).

Step 3*: Fill in your Y axis categories. It should consist of 6 of the following categories**: jargon, quotes (phrase), rituals, roles in the group, location, clothing, tools (technology), verbs, adjectives, mood of the environment, activities/actions, etc.

Step 4*: Your X axis will be individuals in your subculture.

Step 5: To fill in the chart select a combination of words and symbols to represent ideas about your subculture.

Step 6: Label each square with a 1-4 word title that gives the main ideas (as in the sample).***

*** The pictures must be more prominent than the labeling.

Format:

- 6x6 chart with pictures and words. (Add another row and another column for labeling: your finished chart will be 7 squares x 7 squares)
- On paper, NOT electronic.
- Words/labels may be typed
- You may not use clipart.

- Must be at least 8 ½ x 11.