Courtney Harder

Race and Ethnic Diversity

10-809-172 Class # 21907

Personal Storyboard

“My” Culture

**Family**

The three topics I choose for family is my parents, my sisters, and my son. My parents are a part of my culture because they are where I came from and taught me everything I know. I value their opinion and seek them out for help or advice. I do my best to represent my parents by seeking out to do my best. Going above and beyond what they taught me to prove to them that I can make them proud of what they want for me in my future.

 My sister’s are a very big part of my life. I am the middle child so life wasn’t always easy for me. I found it very difficult to “pick” what sister to play with, striving not to make the other angry. It was very nice growing up and having that support system always there for you. When I couldn’t tell my parent’s something, I knew I could count on them to help me out. Currently my older sister is a huge part of my life. Her and myself currently live together due to a nasty divorce that I am going through. Having her around everyday helps me realize who I am as a person along with who I always want to be.

 Lastly for family, is my wonderful two year old son, Brayden. He is the biggest pain in the butt and the biggest joy in my heart. Ever since I was 16 years old I can remember having a knack for children. I was ready for a child of my own at that age, but I knew that I had to much to learn in life before I started a family of my own. In my first year of college I found out unexpectedly that I was pregnant. While freaking out about the pregnancy I learned so much about myself and who I am. Growing a little person in my body was the most amazing thing in the world. I taught me that life is about nurturing and putting others health and safety before you. He taught me that it’s okay to fall down once in awhile, as long as you get back up and keep trying. My parents, my sisters, and my son are all things that have shaped me for you I am and who I want to be. There is no way that I would be where I am today if it wasn’t for any of them helping me along in my journey of life.

**Ethnicity**

I found this topic to be the most difficult to find three items for, but I eventually figured it out. The items I choose are lefse, beer, and Oktoberfest. One of the big reasons I choose lefse is because I am 90% Norwegian and that is where it originated from. Lefse is a potatoe that is thinly rolled out to the point that you can see through it. It is them placed on a lefse griddle until cooked through. Every year my family gathers at my grandmother’s house to make as much lefse as we can, we freeze it, eat it, hand it out, give as gifts and much more. It is something that was passed down from generation to generation and it’s something I love doing.

 It may be a little ridiculous that I choose beer for this topic but one of the major reason’s while doing much research is that Norwegians tend to drink “to” much on Friday’s and Saturday’s. German’s are known for their drinking of beer which is my other 10%. My family is very family orientated, we love getting together and sharing stories with a beer. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard, “can I get you a beer” in my lifetime. Beer in my family has just been a way to kick back and have a good time.

 I also choose Oktoberfest because it is a German celebrated activity. It started with the king and queens marriage celebration in 1810. Year after year more activities were added, making it a festivity celebrated every year, and now, nationwide. We now celebrate the activity with fair rides and beer, and it’s wonderful to know that some of my ancestors were apart of it.

**Financial**

 This topic put me in a sort of slump, but we all have a sort of financial status. I am a part of the lower middle class. Being that I am a teacher, I have no source of major money and I just work day to day.

 Being that I am a single mother I receive financial help. I am not proud to admit it, and it’s not a place that I want to be, but there are some people out there that abuse the privilege and all I can say is that I am very grateful for the help offered. It is not something I want or plan to be on for the rest of my life, but until I finish school and Brayden gets bigger I don’t have a choice.

 Lastly for this topic I choose to talk about my paychecks. Coming from the lower middle class I am lucky if I make it pay check to pay check. I work very hard with everything I do and have goals that one day I would love to achieve. With that being said, I try to put at least 10 dollars every pay check into my savings and 10 dollars into Brayden’s savings so we eventually buy a house and have a life that we can be happy with.

**Gender and Gender Roles**

I will start this topic off by saying how much it is a pain with being a woman. The topics I choose are shoes, make-up, and appearance. Shoes are very important to me. I love dressing up my feet in fun shoes, or comfortable shoes, and getting my shoes to match my outfit. I can dress up an outfit so much and make you feel so good about yourself.

 Make-up is a huge part of my life. I know a lot of history on it because I sell Mary Kay Cosmetics. It’s great to enrich womens lives in the knowledge that I know and have them feel better about themselves. Plus women wear make-up…almost every day! Men expect women to wear make-up and look good. This leads me to my last topic.

 Appearance is what women have gone through throughout all of their lives. When women were at home all day with the children, they were expected to look good for their husband when he came home. We are expected to look good with our hair, clothing, and make-up. Whenever I leave my house I make sure that I look presentable where I don’t have to worry about running into someone at the grocery store.

**Spirituality**

 The items I choose for spirituality are; catholic, praying, and my cross necklace. I choose catholic because I was raised in a catholic household going to bible study every Wednesday night and church every Sunday morning. It was a routine that we did every week and it is how I was raised.

 I was always told that the best person to listen is God. I would pray every night before I went to bed, and every morning before I got out of bed. When I tragedy happened as in a death or a accident, I would reach out to him to help my find my way in the hard time.

 Lastly I choose my cross necklace. This is a necklace I have had ever since I was seven years old. I wore it every day, and now it means to much to me that I don’t want anything to happen to it that I bought a new one that I wear every day. It helps remind me that no matter what happens, the Lord is always with me and I always have a place to turn too.

**Customs and Traditions**

 Holidays, swimming and camping our very big traditions for me. Every Holiday that comes around whether it’s Christmas, Fourth of July or Memorial Day, my family always goes big, or goes home. Every holiday that comes around is a way for everyone to get together and celebrate. We love spending time with everyone and enjoying company we don’t get every day. We have big meals, drinks, gifts depending on the holiday and just have a great time. It makes me sad that holidays come and go so fast, so luckily there’s more than one every year!

 Swimming is an important tradition for me and my family. My sister’s and I have been in swimming ever since we could crawl. My family was with the swim team for 13 years, and it eventually just became a tradition that we held. It was a great thing having my sisters and I start our own tradition within the family. I’m currently teaching Brayden how to swim, it’s a great trait to have and much fun.

 Lastly is camping. My grandparents camped, my parent’s camped, and I camp. It’s something that we have grown up with and would be very difficult going through a whole summer without being out on the lake, or up at the cabin or sitting around the fire. I find it to be a little mini vacation to let yourself get away from reality for a little bit. Society is corrupted with electricity that some forget about actual life and that you can enjoy things that God created all around us.