



"Strange" Ritual

Rewrite your description of a familiar practice or ritual as if you were describing it to someone completely unfamiliar with it OR as if this ritual were part of a strange culture to you and you were describing it to people in your own society.

Although you do not have to answer any or all of the following questions, use them to help you think about your practice and how to rewrite your description of it: At what point in your life did you start practicing this ritual/activity? Why do you do it? Do you remember being explicitly "taught" how to do it? If so, who taught it to you (A family member? A professional? Your peers?). If you don't remember being explicitly taught, how do you think you "learned" it? Is there a belief that some people are more "fit" for this practice than others? What are the social expectations regarding this practice? Are the social "rewards" for doing it? What does this practice mean to you? What kind of societal values does this activity reflect? What does your engaging in this activity "say" about you? Does everyone do it? If not, which sectors of the population would generally engage in it and which wouldn't? Is it gender specific? Age specific? How would you compare people who do it with people who don't do it? What happens if you don't do it? How would you feel if you quit doing it? Do people openly talk about this practice? Is it something people are proud of doing? Do people do privately or in groups?

1-2 pages long. Please post to Blackboard by January 15, and bring a hard copy to class.