

Finding Your Roots

The video linked below is a preview of Henry Louis Gates' show, "Finding Your Roots," where he researches genealogy and family histories of entertainers, athletes, and newsmakers. While the preview doesn't fully delve into anyone specific, you can see how the revelations can elicit some emotional reactions.

Consider the following questions:

- How well do you know your family's cultural history?
- Are you familiar with your family tree?
- How representative are you of your nationality?

Watch: <https://youtu.be/J8sa91Yq-GA>

For this assignment, choose one of the options below:



Option 1: Essay

Do some family research that incorporates biological, cultural, and ethnic characteristics. Interview family members to discover your roots. You never know what may surprise you!

Write a three-four page essay that answers the prompts:

- Summarize your family background
- What cultural traditions has your family kept? Why is it important to keep these practices?
- Which traditions have fallen out of practice? If you can, explain why (or hypothesize why) this has occurred.
- If your family doesn't practice any cultural traditions or your family background is unknown, how have you created your own traditions?

Don't forget to include a works cited page for any additional research.



Option 2: Photo Journal

In this option, show us some proof of what your family does to keep cultural traditions alive. How are these traditions representative of your family's background? For each photograph, include a fully developed paragraph description that responds to the following:

1. Describe the object/event.
2. Explain why it is important to continue this tradition.
3. Identify a favorite aspect of this tradition and why it appeals to you so much. Or if it's a tradition that you don't particularly love, specify why. (Example: My grandmother would make split pea soup every Christmas Eve. I love that she continued the Czech tradition, but I think peas are disgusting.)

Requirements: 10-12 photograph slides in a powerpoint presentation or Prezi. If you are using Google Slides, please export your slides as a pdf and then upload your project.

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