

THIS AMERICAN LIFE

Investigative Report

Purpose: For this report you will be answering the essential question, *which people, customs, and beliefs have shaped American life?* You will need to cite evidence from at least three sources, and explain how life here is affected by these people, customs, and beliefs. The following sources could be included:

- “The Sun Still Rises in the Same Sky”
- Iroquois Legend
- Various Native American Legends
- Various Articles
- *Of Plymouth Plantation*
- Puritanism notes and sources
- *The General History of Virginia*
- *Blaxicans*
- *Indian Boy Love Song*
- Personal Family Survey

Format: Your report should be a minimum of 1000 words, and follow MLA format. This will mean you will need a works cited page included at least three sources. A sample MLA format paper is available online

Audience: Your report should be written for an academic audience, meaning you will want to use more formal language. Refrain from using personal pronouns (e.g. I, you), except when referring to your own family experiences.

Organization:

Paragraph #1:

- 1) 1-2 sentences. Grab the audience’s attention with an interesting fact, statistic, or statement of interest.
- 2) Build background for the reader about people, customs, and beliefs shaping American life. Explain why this might happen, or how it happens. Do not use sources in this section.
- 3) Create your thesis, which is our essential question, written as a statement. For example, “American life has been shaped by various people, customs, and beliefs”

Paragraphs #2-4: Explain a custom, belief, or people group that has shaped American life. Be sure to introduce, and analyze each piece of evidence you bring to the report.

Paragraph #5: Using your personal family survey, explain how your customs and beliefs have become part of the American life. Use quotations or information from your survey as you would a primary source.

Paragraph #6:

- 1) Restate your thesis in different words
- 2) Retell your main points by summarizing each body paragraph.
- 3) Round off your essay with a final statement summarizing the importance of people, cultures, and beliefs.