First essay assignment for Current Topics in Psychological Anthropology

Due at the beginning of class Tuesday, April 25.

**Assignment:** Analyze how you came to engage—and be able to engage—in a structured physical activity as child. (For example, bike riding, swimming, playing soccer, jump-roping, horseback riding.)

Consider the process of successfully doing this physical activity in a culturally appropriate way. Describe how the process was introduced to you.

Please answer the prompt in light of the course lectures, readings, and discussions.

Some guidelines:
- What were the processes by which you developed the ability to practice this activity?
- What precedents and models are at work, and how did you implement them?
- How do other members of your local culture (siblings, friends, neighbors, etc.) approach this learning process?
- What did you learn about your culture/society while learning this activity?

**Audience:** Write this paper as if you were explaining it to a peer in this class. They are relatively aware of the theoretical ideas, but you need to give them examples and persuade them cogently.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this essay assignment is to write better (everyone can improve) social science essays, help you think more deeply about course concepts, and apply theoretical models to your own experiences.

Give your essay an appropriate, effective, meaningful title, and put your name, TA’s name, and section letter. Your essay should be no more than two pages; it should be double-spaced, paginated, pages stapled together, with your name on each page. Use Times New Roman, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins all around. Make sure you have proofread the paper at least twice. Copyedit it meticulously when you are wide awake and there are no distractions. If you can complete a draft in time, you may take it to the Writing Center in the Humanities Building for help.

Cite all sources. Citation format is not crucial, so long as it is complete and consistent. Source citations and references at the end do not count toward the 2-page limit.

At the bottom of the paper, paste in and sign the following statement (which also does not count in the 2-page limit):

“This essay is entirely my own work, except where sources for text or ideas are clearly cited. I understand that it is plagiarism to use anyone else’s work without citation, and that plagiarism is inconsistent with honest scholarship. I acknowledge that if I plagiarize I will receive a zero for this essay and will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action.”
Your essay is due on paper in class at 12:29pm, Tuesday, April 25. Please do not interrupt class by bringing your essay in after class starts. In any case, late essays will not be accepted. So print early and get to Haines early.

Have fun with this, think creatively, and learn a lot writing it. That’s the point of the assignment!