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Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

8 March 2019

**Final Product Proposal**

**Introduction and Statement of Purpose-**

 For my final product, I plan to design and perform a case study using anthropological research and qualitative data collection methods such as informal interviews and observation. The subject of the case study will be factors in the atmosphere of youth baseball and softball that contribute to parental engagement and how parental engagement affects the performance of the players. I selected baseball and softball for the study due to their widespread popularity and seasons that coincide with my research period. Additionally, baseball and softball are not sports that I have recently participated in or have personal attachments to. The project will take place in Frisco, Texas, and I plan to choose one team for each sport to observe and interview parents from. This project will allow me to learn more about the many methods that are used by anthropologists to research different populations. It will also help those who are not familiar with the sports to understand the dynamic of player/parent interaction better.

**Review of Skills and Research-**

My research will focus on the involvement of parents in their child’s baseball or softball team and how interaction between the child and parents affects the child’s performance in a game. Comparing the atmospheres of parental engagement within each sport will allow for a better understanding of the role of gender in parent involvement and the possible origins of different attitudes and activities. The research process will begin with choosing teams to observe and conducting exploratory research about case studies and the involvement of parents in their child's sports.

 Skills that I will need in order to successfully complete my final product include ethnographic methods, sincerity, sensitivity, professionalism, patience, and flexibility. Knowledge of ethnographic methods will be necessary to collect data through observations and interviews at baseball/softball events. Professionalism will be required in observing and interviewing parents and coaches. Lastly, this project will require patience and flexibility due to the possibility of teams choosing not to participate in the study and due to the large amount of work and time that are associated with this project.

**Methodology-**

In order to write an accurate case study report about the subculture of sports in DFW, I will need to first research case study protocol, ethnographic methods of data collection, and other studies involving parent involvement in youth sports. I will need to gather information about the typical atmospheres of youth baseball and softball games and the various ways that parents interact with the players, coaches, umpires, and each other. After researching, I will begin observing baseball and softball games. At these games, I plan to speak with the coaches beforehand and ask them if I can watch their games and take notes and if I can interview them and a few of the parents. With permission, I will then take field notes of behaviors that I see at games and speak to the parents and coaches. Then, I will move on to analyzing the data that I collect and formatting it in a case study report.

**Materials-**

Materials necessary for the completion of my project include:

* Notebook and pen to collect and analyze data
* Computer to collect and analyze data
* Parents and coaches to interview
* Sporting events to observe

The cost of the project will be any admission prices required to attend and observe sporting events.

**Conclusion-**

This Final Product will assist my learning about data collection and synthesis methods that are commonly used by anthropologists. Additionally, it will allow me to partake in a research project of anthropological value and to gain experience interviewing subjects and observing events. Aside from the benefits that this project will offer me, a case study of the sports subculture in DFW will help those not involved in the subculture to gain perspective, and it will help those in the subculture to see how it is perceived by an outsider. I have participated in many sports throughout my life, so I have a basic understanding of the five sports that I have chosen to research. However, I do not have any personal ties or in-depth interests in the sports that will cause inaccuracies in the research completed.

**Timeline-**

February 8th - Final Product Proposal Draft

February 15th - Final Product Proposal Mentor Feedback

February 15th-March 1st - Revise Final Product Proposal, learn about the approach to case

 studies, begin research about ethnographic methods and parental

 engagement in baseball/softball

March 1st - done with research about case studies, anthropological methods, and parental

 engagement in youth sports

March 8th - Final Product Proposal Final

March 13th - Arrange dates to observe and interview with baseball and softball teams, have

 completed interview questions

March 13th-April 20th - Observe baseball and softball games and interview parents and coaches

April 21st-April 30th - Compile and organize data from research, observations, and interviews

May 1st-May 10th - Analyze data and write case study report