

### **ASSIGNMENT : "WHERE I AM FROM" PROJECT**

*Purpose:* The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to honor the relevance and value of your own lived experiences as a student in higher education as a valuable source of knowledge.

*Directions:*

1. Read the narrative reflections of students in NASPA's Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program, found in Borrego and Manning's *Where I Am From*.
2. Complete the "Where I am from" experiential exercise.
3. Using the template or your own creative approach, develop a "Where I am from" piece. Consider (a) your experiences growing up (home, family, friends, and neighborhood), (b) your education in public/private/faith-based schools, and (c) your experiences thus far in higher education.
4. Reflect on where you "were" from "then"; and where you "are" from "now." Develop a written "Where I am From: Then and Now" piece. Following that, develop a 1-2 page reflection analyzing your journey from where your "roots" to your role now as a student in higher education. Discuss those factors which supported your entry into higher education and those that challenged you.
5. Hand in your creative piece and your analytic piece at the same time and be prepared to read/present it in class.

**Due: Presentations and discussion May 5, 12 and 19.  
Written pieces due May 14**

**STEP ONE [THEN]: WE ARE ALL POETS OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE: *WHERE I AM FROM***

Go back in your mind to your childhood and bring images to mind of things that you touched, smelled, tasted, heard, and saw? Try to recall as many sensory images as you can.

| TOUCH | SMELL | TASTE | HEAR | SEE |
|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|
|       |       |       |      |     |

**Step One: The Past or Back Home**

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [specific ordinary item/object that you saw as a child], from \_\_\_\_\_ [another item, object, or product used] and \_\_\_\_\_.

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [home description: common sight, smell, sound detail from your childhood].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [family tradition] and \_\_\_\_\_ [family trait], from \_\_\_\_\_ [name of family member] and \_\_\_\_\_ [another family name and \_\_\_\_\_ [family name].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [two food items representing your family].

From \_\_\_\_\_ [something you were told as a child] and \_\_\_\_\_ [another thing you were told].

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ [place of birth] and \_\_\_\_\_ [family ancestry].

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_ [description of family member's habit or tendency that you remember] and \_\_\_\_\_ [another family tendency].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [a religious belief that you learned as a child or lack of it].

I am from the [plant, flower, natural item that you remember in or near your home], the \_\_\_\_\_ [plant, flower, natural detail].

From the \_\_\_\_\_ [a detail from a specific family story or about a specific person], \_\_\_\_\_ [another detail] and the \_\_\_\_\_ [another detail about another family member].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [location of family pictures, mementos, archives and several more lines indicating their worth or value to you].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [your own detail, memory, sensory detail].

**STEP TWO [NOW]: WE ARE ALL POETS OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE: *WHERE I AM FROM***

Think about your life right now: Where you live, your friends, your classes, your life at WWU, your life off campus, your activities and leadership roles, and your major and career plans. Bring images to mind of things that you touch, smell, taste, hear, and see every day? Try to recall as many sensory images as you can.

| TOUCH | SMELL | TASTE | HEAR | SEE |
|-------|-------|-------|------|-----|
|       |       |       |      |     |

## Step Two: The Present or Now and Here

Now I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [specific ordinary item/object that you see every day], from \_\_\_\_\_ [another item, object, or product you use] and \_\_\_\_\_.

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [common sight, smell, sound detail from where you live now].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [something you see or hear in your classrooms] and \_\_\_\_\_ [something you see or hear in your clubs, activities, or service projects], from \_\_\_\_\_ [name of friends] and \_\_\_\_\_ [another friend] \_\_\_\_\_ [another friend].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [two food items representing how I eat now].

From \_\_\_\_\_ [something you are taught now] and \_\_\_\_\_ [something you learned or believe now].

I'm from \_\_\_\_\_ [name of your major or your academic interest] and \_\_\_\_\_ [name of what you think you will do in your life].

I am from the \_\_\_\_\_ [description of an advisor, instructor, mentor who is important to you] and \_\_\_\_\_ [another advisor, instructor or mentor].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [how I see the world now; your political beliefs, your service philosophy, your outlook].

I am from the [natural items, plant, flower, that you like around Bellingham or near where you live], the \_\_\_\_\_ [another natural detail].

From the \_\_\_\_\_ [a detail or story about someone in your life here at school], \_\_\_\_\_ [another detail] and the \_\_\_\_\_ [another detail about another someone in your life].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [location where you live now, objects or mementos in your home now that have worth or value to you].

I am from \_\_\_\_\_ [your own detail, sensory detail of life NOW].