

# CROSS CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

## Cross-Cultural Engagement (CCE 073) Requirement Guide

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## INTRODUCTION

### About CCE 073

Asbury University believes that our students are immensely enriched by their encounters with other cultures through full immersion experiences, which can allow for further advancement in preparing our students to engage other cultures and advance the cause of Christ around the world. This Foundational Liberal Arts requirement also specifically addresses Asbury University's Statement of Purpose, which "seeks to expand students' horizon outward to understand the history and value of other peoples and cultures and prepare them for involvement in a complex and changing global reality"; and thus, "Asbury University sends them forth to engage transformatively the cultures in which they are called to live out their allegiance to the Kingdom of God and to participate in the cause of world redemption". We no longer are an isolated people but part of a global community that is ever-changing and ever-growing.

Currently, the CCE foundational requirement is housed within the **Global Engagement Office (GEO)** and administered by both the Director and Coordinator of GEO. Whether it is a week-long service project in another country, a semester-long study abroad program where students become short-term residents of their country of choice, or an intentional immersion into a subcultural context right here in the United States, the Cross-Cultural Engagement requirement aims to be a transformative learning experience where students grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually.

### Purpose & Goals of CCE 073

The purpose of the Cross-Cultural Engagement (CCE) requirement is to strengthen students' abilities to interact with the global community, to expand their worldview, and to increase their cultural sensitivity, with the ultimate goal of a broadened awareness as to how they might fit into God's plan of redemption in other cultures and develop competency to effectively serve Christ in a global society. Not as mere travelers collecting experiences, we challenge our students to gain genuine understanding, see the world through different perspectives, and when appropriate, effectively and authentically serve others. Through CCE 073, students will learn the skills and tools needed to work and serve effectively in cross-cultural settings. As much as possible, we recommend that our students travel abroad as part of their CCE requirement, but we also recognize that enrichment through diversity can also be cultivated in one's own country by cultures undiscovered at home. Every undergraduate student must complete this Foundational Liberal Arts Requirement in order to graduate from Asbury University.

### What is a "CCE 073 Experience"?

We define this engagement experience as an immersion into another culture, engaging the student in a variety of life-spheres, and more specifically, the five major social institutions—family, education, economics, government/politics, and religion—and the cultural elements by which those institutions are articulated, such as but not limited to architecture, fine arts, music, artifacts, language, foods, crafts, leisure activities, institutions, churches and eco-diversity. We also define this engagement experience as one that is culturally diverse. In other words, students should be in a culture that is significantly different from their own, and the dimensions of time and intensity should be relative. For instance, for a week-long experience, the culture differences should be greater; for a semester-long study abroad experience, a smaller culture difference may be able to accomplish the same degree of cultural exposure and intensity of reflection and deep learning. Lastly, most experiences will expose the student to cultural dynamics outside of the United States. Stateside experiences are permitted but have several more assignment components that need to be met and completed for students to use as part of their CCE 073 experience.

### Ways to Accomplish the CCE 073 Experience Requirements:

Study Abroad/Off-Campus Programs, short-term mission trips, service or volunteer trips, Asbury Initiative's Servant Leadership Internships, and other internships or jobs may be used to complete the CCE experience requirement. Personal travels in the form of cultural explorations may be approved but students will have

#### Abroad Assignment Overview\*

1. Orientation Session
2. Pre-Assignment Assessment
3. CCE 073 Proposal
4. Travel Forms
5. Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations
6. Final Paper
7. Post-Assignment Assessment\*\*

#### Stateside Assignment Overview\*\*\*

1. Orientation Session
2. Pre-Assignment Assessment
3. CCE 073 Proposal
4. Book Review
5. Journals
6. Cross-Cultural Explorations
7. Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations
8. Final Paper
9. Post-Assignment Assessment

to complete the "stateside" assignment component. Vacations with friends or family members cannot be used to complete this requirement. It must be an intentional immersion into another cultural context. At a very minimum, an experience abroad must be six nights and seven days long.

#### CCE 073 Assignment Requirements:

As one of the academic requirements of the Foundational Liberal Arts courses, students must meet both the **experience** component and the **assignment** component. **So, what is the assignment component?** Students can choose between the Abroad and Stateside Assignment, and the respective requirements are outlined in the diagrams on the left.

*\*Abroad Assignments are also for international students who are choosing to use their current U.S. experience as their CCE experience component.*

*\*\*Students who participate in Study Abroad or Off-Campus Programs also need to complete the Study Abroad Survey.*

*\*\*\*Stateside Assignments are also for those that choose to propose an academic course to be used as their CCE experience.*

## Technicalities & Accommodations

**Course Substitution:** Students may choose to propose an academic course to be used as their Cross-Cultural Engagement experience. *While a course can take the place of an experience, students will still have to complete the "stateside" assignment component.*

**International Students:** International students do not have to complete the experience component of the requirement since their current experience of moving to the United States for college suffices as their Cross-Cultural Engagement experience. International students do have to complete the "abroad" assignment component of the requirement.

**Previous Experiences:** Experiences that took place the summer going into a student's senior year of high school and fit the experience criteria may be used towards the CCE 073 experience requirement. Students will have to complete all of the assignment requirements within their first-year at Asbury University. After the first year, students will not be allowed to use that experience towards their CCE 073 requirement. For transfer students with less than 60 credits, they may also use an experience that occurred in the previous year before entering Asbury University.

**Transfer Students:** Students who transfer in with 60 credits or more do not have to complete the CCE 073 requirement. Otherwise, transfer students will still need to complete their CCE 073.

### Four Learning Outcomes of CCE 073:

1. Students will be able to describe their own cultural orientation and outline the nature of culture differences that exist between the student and their proposed community of engagement. In instances where significant cultural difference is not apparent, students should be able to explain how there are sufficient differences and the proposed experience meets the goals of CCE 073.
2. Students will be able to perform a self-guided cultural assessment of a new environment, which will enhance their cultural learning and cultural awareness. The tools and skills gained through the Toolkit will enable them to observe, assess, and determine the best strategies for adapting to and learning from alternative perspectives as well as problem solve in a new environment.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate in their final paper the impact of the immersion experience on their own worldview; an increase in knowledge and understanding of other cultures and a heightened cultural sensitivity. Their final paper should be a well synthesized reflection that cohesively brings together their cultural or intercultural experience with the knowledge they gained through their CCE assignments.
4. Students will be able to discuss how observing other faiths has impacted the substance and definition of their own faith, and furthermore, students will be able to describe how they might fit into God's plan of redemption for the whole world and what it means as a Christian to practically serve and appropriately respond to an ever changing global society.

### Before you go

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#### Step 1) Orientation Session

Sign-up for one of the Orientation Sessions on the CCE 073 webpage at [www.asbury.edu/cce](http://www.asbury.edu/cce). You only need to attend this once. During this session we will go over the Cultural Analysis Toolkit and complete a Self-Assessment Profile. Instructions for how to complete your CCE 073 will also be addressed. Once you are signed-up for an Orientation Session, you will also be enrolled in “CCE Assignments” on Discovery. Through Discovery you will be able to access and submit all of your assignments.

#### Step 2) Pre-Assignment Assessment

Please complete the Pre-Assignment Assessment. Link to the assessment can be found on Discovery.

#### Step 3) CCE 073 Proposal

Complete the CCE 073 Proposal Application form. Please submit your Proposal on Discovery.

#### Step 4) Travel Forms

##### **ONLY FOR ASBURY-LED TRAVELS**

Once your Proposal has been accepted, please make sure to complete and submit the following to the Global Engagement Office:

1. Travel Form Packet
2. Health Form
3. International Student Identity Card (ISIC) Application & Fee

All the forms can be found at [www.asbury.edu/cce](http://www.asbury.edu/cce) or picked up from the Global Engagement Office (Reasoner 208/210). Original copies with original signatures must be submitted back to GEO.

### When you return

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#### Step 5) Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations

Upon returning from your CCE 073 experience, please submit the Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations Worksheet on Discovery.

#### Step 6) Final Paper

Please submit your Final Paper on Discovery.

#### Step 7) Post-Assignment Assessment

After completing this step, the GEO staff will process your CCE 073 completion. The semester in which you complete your CCE 073 is when it will show on your transcript.

*If you study abroad, there is also a study abroad survey [www.asbury.edu/studyabroad](http://www.asbury.edu/studyabroad) to complete.*

## STATESIDE ASSIGNMENTS—STEP BY STEP

*Unlike the Abroad Assignments, the Stateside Assignments may be completed non-consecutively and/or in conjunction with the engagement experience.*

### Step 1) Orientation Session

Sign-up for one of the Orientation Sessions on the CCE 073 webpage: [www.asbury.edu/cce](http://www.asbury.edu/cce). You only need to attend this once. During this session we will go over the Cultural Analysis Toolkit and complete a Self-Assessment Profile. Instructions for how to complete your CCE 073 will also be addressed. Once you are signed-up for an Orientation Session, you will also be enrolled in “CCE Assignments” on Discovery. Through Discovery you will be able to access and submit all of your assignments.

### Step 2) Pre-Assignment Assessment

Please complete the Pre-Assignment Assessment. Link to the assessment can be found on Discovery.

### Step 3) CCE 073 Proposal

Complete the CCE 073 Proposal Application form. Please submit your Proposal on Discovery.

### Step 4) Book Review

Write a reflection paper (350 words) on the book and submit it on Discovery.

### Step 5) Weekly (or Daily) Journals

Please submit 6 journal entries; each entry should be between 200 and 350 words. Please submit your journal entries on Discovery.

### Step 6) Cross-Cultural Explorations & Conversations

Complete a minimum of 10 hours of conversations with people of the subculture you’ve chosen to immerse in and 3 cross-cultural explorations by visiting historic and cultural sites. Submit your log-ins when you turn in your Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations and the Final Paper.

### Step 7) Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations

Upon returning from your CCE 073 experience, please submit the Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations Worksheet on Discovery.

### Step 8) Final Paper

Please submit your Final Paper on Discovery.

### Step 9) Post-Assignment Assessment

After completing this step, the GEO staff will process your CCE 073 completion. The semester in which you complete your CCE 073 is when it will show on your transcript.



## BOOK REVIEW

Please refer to the Discovery page for recommended books or you may also refer to Kinlaw Library's "Find Resources by Subject" Research Tools. Read a book on the experiences of the cultural context you are immersing yourself in, and select one that you feel will allow you to gain more understanding and awareness. If you are doing ministry or volunteer work, we encourage you to read books that are focused on cross-cultural ministry and volunteer/service work. Read the book prior to the start your immersion.

Write a **350-word reflection paper** on the book. The reflection should highlight several key points, identify things that were particularly helpful to you, and include your emotional and insightful responses about what you read.

**Academic Paper Format:** Please use 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one-inch margins all around. Please make sure to write your name, the course, the assignment, and the date at the top right corner of the paper. Please review the Academic Paper Format Handout.

## WEEKLY/DAILY JOURNALS

Reflective writing helps you process your cross-cultural engagement and experiences for the purpose of: critical reflection, clarification of issues, asking questions, expressing concerns and potential frustrations or culture shocks, testing theories against experience, and sharing insights. Feel free to incorporate observations as instructed by the Cultural Analysis Toolkit to conduct on-site analysis using the methodology as outlined in the toolkit.

### Possible ideas for Reflections:

- Conversations with your supervisor about their cross-cultural experiences
- Conversations with your cultural informants
- Reflections on passages from the book selected
- Observations of cultural similarities and differences
- Observations of cultural explorations
- Experiences of cultural shock
- Things you have questions about
- Exploration of racial/ethnic tensions within this country
- Reflections on your own identity
- Explorations of challenges, affirmations, and growth of your own faith

Please submit **6 journal entries**; each entry should be between 200 and 350 words. You are encouraged to write your journals on a daily/weekly basis but please submit all journal entries at the same time via Discovery.

**Academic Paper Format:** Please use 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one-inch margins all around. Please make sure to write your name, the course, the assignment, and the date at the top right corner of the paper. Please review the Academic Paper Format Handout.

## CROSS-CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS & EXPLORATIONS

Complete a minimum of **10 hours of conversations** with people of the subculture you've chosen to immerse in and **3 cross-cultural explorations** by visiting historic and cultural sites. Submit your log-ins when you turn in your Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations and the Final Paper.

**Cross-Cultural Conversations:** We describe these conversations as interactions with the people of the subculture you've chosen to immerse in. These interactions are to be with adults (ages 18 and over) who are racially, ethnically, and/or culturally different than you. You can engage one or several people. This should be thought of as time of sharing your story as much as you are listening to the story of your cultural informant. This is **not** to be thought of as an interview. As much as possible, have these conversations over a meal, as part of a cultural excursion, at events/programs, or in an informal setting. (These conversations should be documented in your journals.)

### Possible topics:

- How does this person spend a typical day? How does this compare to your day?
- What are some of the traditions and customs that are important in this informant's cultural community?
- Do racial tensions exist? Do you both see racial tensions or the lack thereof in the same way? What would each of you think it would take to solve racial tensions in the US?
- Talk about family, food, music, other forms of media, politics, education, religion, hopes, fears, etc.
- Talk about what you do in your spare time. Who do you look up to? Where do you see yourselves 5 years from now? Etc.

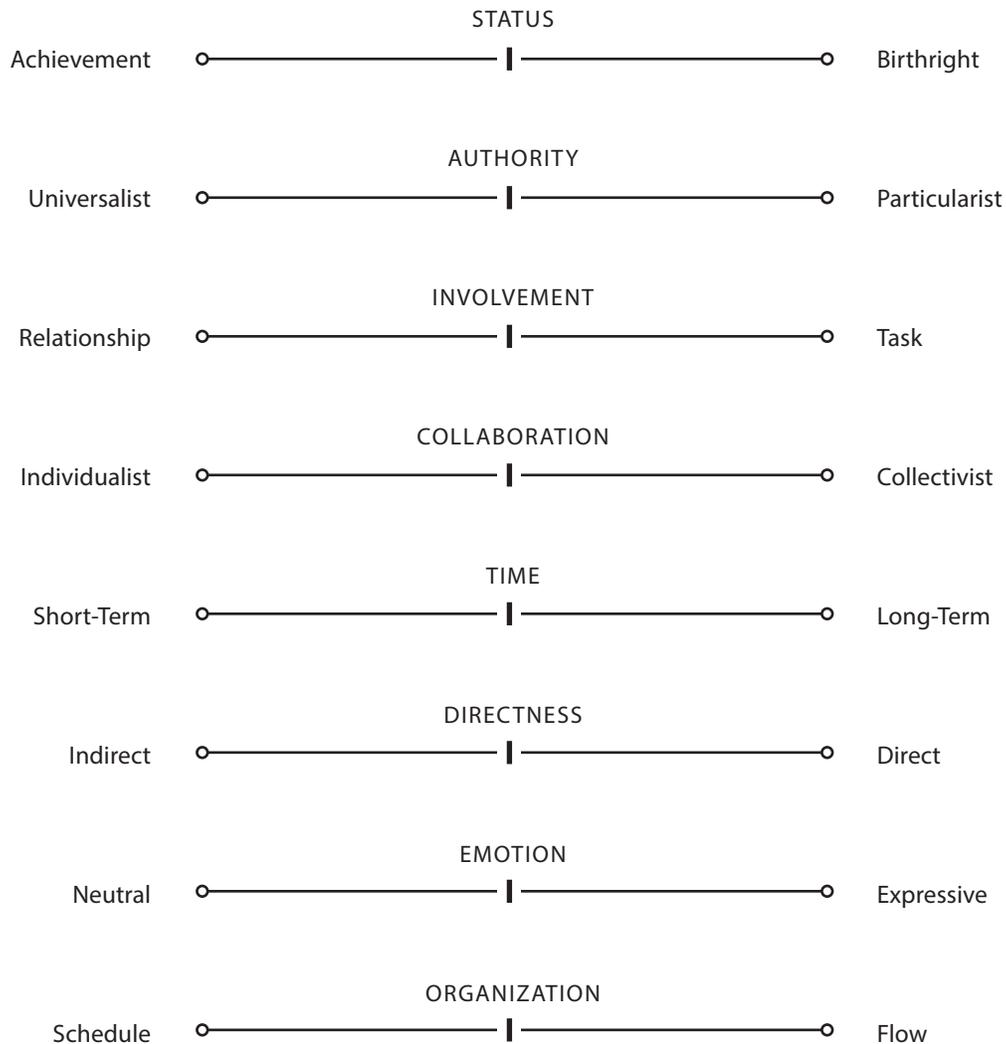
**Cross-Cultural Explorations:** We describe this as visits to historic and cultural sites. You can visit churches, museums, authentic restaurants, food markets, historical landmarks, and cultural events, such as fairs and holiday celebrations.

Use the following format to log-in your Cross-Cultural Conversations & Explorations.

Organization	Location	Program/Activity	Date	Time Logged
ex. Friendship International Ministries	Friendship International	Japanese hand bell and choir performance	4/9/2015	8am-11am
ex. Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc.	Hosted at the Fayette Library	2015 World Refugee Day Summit — A local conference on issues and concerns regarding the US refugee community with Lexington refugee as speakers	6/18/2015	9am-4pm

## CULTURAL ANALYSIS TOOLKIT: SELF-ASSESSMENT CHART

Read the self-assessment question(s) for each of the cultural features in the Cultural Behaviors and Attitudes section and mark on the charts below where you fall on each continuum. Knowing your own cultural profile will help you identify areas where you may experience challenges when coping with a new environment. Generally speaking, the further you are towards the end of a continuum, the more difficulty you will experience when dealing with an environment where the opposite end is the norm. Mark your position for each cultural features on the chart below. Where do you fall on each of the spectrums? Where does your home country/culture fall on the spectrums?



## CULTURAL ANALYSIS TOOLKIT: OBSERVATIONS

### Instructions for Using Cultural Assessment Methodology

Please read the instructions carefully before embarking on your experience.

#### Purpose

Going abroad or immersing yourself in a different cultural context can be an opportunity to acquire new skills and information that can aid your future engagements and interactions both here in the U.S. or in another country, whether for work, missions, or in living life with people of different backgrounds. This project will deepen your experience and awareness of your destination and help you articulate your cross-cultural experience in terms of work-relevant learning and transferrable skills.

#### Instructions

1. Choose **one cultural feature** (out of the 8) that you would like to focus on for your Observation assignment.
2. Review the cultural feature you have chosen in the *Cultural Behaviors and Attitudes* section of the Cultural Analysis Toolkit (page 9). You should have received a copy of this from the CCE Orientation. If not, please locate a copy on Discovery.
3. Use the *Gathering Data* section to decide how you will gather data to assess your destination (page 47).
4. Based on your research, describe where your destination city falls on the cultural continuum you chosen.
5. Refer to the *Cultural Behaviors and Attitudes* section to predict counterparts' approach to and expectations of interaction (page 9).

#### For the Observations:

- Use different methods or occasions of data gathering for each observation (for example, one question asked in a school visit plus one observation of a professor's teaching style, etc.)
- Provide at least one photo of a situation or observation that reflects the cultural feature you have chosen. Please include an explanation of what the photo is depicting so that its relationship to the cultural feature is clear. Your photo can be anything you see that illustrates the cultural feature, including:
  - People doing something in a way that reflects the cultural feature
  - A sign or public messaging
  - Products arranged on shelves in a store
  - Artwork or organization of wording on a page

#### Formatting

The table format in the *Form and Instructions* page is designed for ease in aggregating your submission. Don't modify the formatting or convert the tables to text.

#### Tips

- Identify in advance what occasions you will use for data gathering (cultural sites, classroom, office environment, service project, weekend excursion, etc). Do not miss your window of opportunity!
- Document any questions you ask and the precise answers you receive so you'll have them for your report.
- Take pictures of people, signs, buildings, etc. to support your analysis. Please be mindful that you're respectful when taking photos.
- It's tourist season! Be careful to document what the "locals" do – not what tourists do. Ask your staff liaison where locals live, shop and work.
- When you encounter a contradiction (two very different approaches in two restaurants you visit, for example), try to analyze the reason for the difference, and ask questions about it if possible.
- Compare behavior in multiple contexts. Don't conclude that people in your destination city have a casual attitude towards time just because you see people relaxing in a park – that's what people do in parks everywhere.
- People vary, so observe several people in the same situation/ask several people the same question. If that's impossible, ask your staff liaison to confirm a trend.
- You may notice differences between various parts of the country you're visiting. Feel free to comment on these and suggest explanations.

## Form & Instructions

Fill out one copy of this form (on Discovery) and save as a PDF before uploading.

### Individual Observations

Choose one cultural feature you will be analyzing. List two methods or occasions of data gathering you used. The fields will expand to accommodate as much text as you want to provide. For each method, provide the following:

- a. Specific examples of what you observed and
- b. What your observations about each experience indicate about the culture of your destination city.

*Example:*

**Cultural Feature:** *Neutral/Expressive conveyance of emotion*

<b>Method</b>	Observed three presenters at a company visit.
Observations	In general, they were animated speakers who used a lot of gestures and facial expressions. They moved around while speaking. Their tone of voice varied, and conveyed quite a bit of emotion. Two of them watched the audience for signs that we were engaged and one of them asked questions to make the presentation interactive.
Conclusion	This behavior indicates an expressive orientation to communication.
Comments	One of the three was less animated than her colleagues. I asked, and it turned out she was German, so not a native of the country, which could explain this. Based on the general trends we noticed, I think our destination country is pretty clearly expressive rather than neutral.

**Cultural Feature:**

<b>Method 1.</b>	
Observations	
Conclusion	
Comments	

**Cultural Feature:**

<b>Method 2.</b>	
Observations	
Conclusion	
Comments	

### Visual Information

Paste **at least one** visual indication (photo) as indicated. Provide a **description** in the space below showing how they support your cultural assessment.

<i>Place Photo Here</i>	<table border="1"><tr><td style="background-color: #e0e0e0; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"><b># 1.</b></td><td style="vertical-align: top;"><i>Description</i></td></tr></table>	<b># 1.</b>	<i>Description</i>
<b># 1.</b>	<i>Description</i>		

**Personal Profile (200-350 words):** Describe your self-assessment in the cultural feature you have selected.

1. Where do you fall on the spectrum and how do you know?
2. Would you say you're typical of the general American public on this particular cultural feature? Why or why not?
3. How might your profiles make it easier/more difficult for you to adapt to new environments?

**Country Profile (200-350 words):** Comment on the following:

1. What is your conclusion about the cultural orientation of your destination (list the tendencies you noticed for each cultural feature)?
2. Did all your data gathering methods point to the same cultural features? If not, how did you resolve the contradictions you observed?
3. How do the cultural characteristics of your destination differ from those of the U.S.?

**Conclusions (200-350 words):** Comment on the following:

1. What challenges might Americans have doing business with people who have the cultural features you identified in your destination?
2. How could you use the toolkit to analyze and adapt to a new environment (whether at home or abroad)?
3. What "transferrable skills" have you gained by doing this project that employers (now or in the future) should know about?

## FINAL PAPER

Your Final Paper should be a culmination of your cross-cultural experiences and assignments. **Please address at least 5 out of the 8 prompts listed below.** The paper should be 1500-2000 words. Include a word count on the last page of your paper.

Final Paper Prompts:

- How did you meet the CCE Learning Outcomes?
- What lessons in cross-cultural interactions from this experience will have a lasting impact?
- How is what you learned from the readings different from and/or similar to what you learned from your cultural informant? In terms of experiences, such as cultural differences, challenges, struggles, race relations, etc.
- In what ways does a Christian faith perspective differ from a secular perspective in addressing racial reconciliation? What does scripture say we are to do? How shall we think about racial and cultural conflicts?
- In what ways is the Christian faith encountered differently by different ethnic and/or cultural groups?
- In what ways, if any, did your actual experience differ from what you thought this experience would be like? Explain.
- What steps will you take to further your cross-cultural experience and deepen your cultural knowledge? How is what you have learned through this project connected with your academic studies as well as future career or life experiences?
- How has your understanding of the Cultural Analysis Toolkit and the concepts of each of the cultural features helped you prepare for your cross-cultural experience?

Upon returning from your CCE 073 experience, please submit the Cultural Analysis Toolkit Observations Worksheet and your Final Paper together. Submit both assignments via Discovery.

Academic Paper Format: Please use 12 point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one-inch margins all around. Please make sure to write your name, the course, the assignment, and the date at the top right corner of the paper. Please review the Academic Paper Format Handout.