

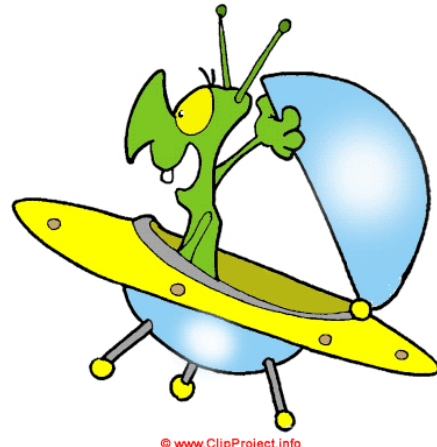
Annual Kayal ~~Alien~~ Sociologist/Anthropologist Paper Contest

The purpose of this paper is to apply social scientific perspectives to everyday life. To do this, you will need to do your best to step outside of your own cultural biases. Papers may be shared for educational and/or promotional purposes on the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work website or elsewhere.

Grand Prize: **\$100***

2nd Place: **\$50***

3rd Place: **\$40***



Preparation:

Pretend to be a sociologist or anthropologist from another planet. Your mission is to assess Earth culture in 4-5 pages. Find a place on campus, at home, or in a social space to “observe” the inhabitants of Planet Earth. Record everything you see for about thirty minutes. (Optional: For a model, please read Horace Miner’s “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” at <https://www.msu.edu/~jdowell/miner.html>).

Paper:

Write a report to your alien commander. Remember, you must divorce yourself from your cultural assumptions. For example, if you were an alien visiting earth and you landed at the zoo, you might assume Earth was a barbaric place that jailed and then taunted its inhabitants. Support your assumptions to your commander with specific and descriptive observations. The best papers will have a central thesis or argument they focus on throughout. Be creative!

Submission:

Email papers in Microsoft Word attachments to Nancy.Hall@shu.edu by March 19, 2012. Please put “Alien Contest” in subject line.

* Winner may select payment in Pirate Gold or Amazon.com gift certificate. Papers will be judged by Dr. Philip Kayal, Professor Emeritus with possible assistance from colleagues. Judge’s decisions are final. Winners will be announced by April 20, 2012. *Contest eligibility is open to Sociology & Anthropology majors and minors only.* Image from http://www.clipproject.info/Clipart_Aliens_Seite_1.html.