

Fullerton College
110 Anti-bias Perspective Seminar
Fall 2009

Pass It On/Día de los Muertos Assignment

On Thursday, October 29th is the Annual Campus Celebration of Día de los Muertos.

The Anti-bias Perspective Seminar and the Ethnic Studies classes of Jerry Padilla & Adela Lopez come together to share their findings, understanding, experiences of a religious ritual/celebration: Día de los Muertos with the larger campus community and the City of Fullerton. **This event is a Celebration of Life.** It will be held on the Campus Quad in front of the college library. This area is transformed with ofrendas, food, music and dance.

This is a time where members of the community can experience what our classes have been exploring based on the About Faith article (#17). This article refers to a three-part model for exploring "Religious Expression:"

step one - **observation**, step two - **description**, and step three - **interpretation**.

The assignment needs to be typed (Part I and Part II).

This assignment is worth 50 points and is due Nov. 5th.

Pass It On! Part I:

1. **The Story of the Person's Life.** Dia de los Muertos is about honoring someone/something. This part should be written as a story. If you are doing Part II, Option #1. Tell the story of the person you are honoring. If you are doing Part II, Option #2 identify a person in your family (past or present) that you want to find out more information and share their story.
2. **Your Life Memories.** In narrative form, describe specific memories that **you** have regarding special events that are important to you. This is an opportunity to begin to document your story to be included in your family history. **Also,** have families members share their memories as well and document.
3. **Pass It On! Part I: Needs to be typed.**

DDL M Options Part II: There are two options for the DDL M part of the assignment. [Designing an Ofrenda + Description & Reflection Sheet or Research Paper + Investigation Sheet].

Option #1: Design an Ofrenda:

- a. **Design an Ofrenda** for the Thursday evening Celebration.
- b. **You are HOSTING THE EVENT!** Ofrendas need to be **set up BEFORE 6:00pm** (set-up will begin in the afternoon) – tables are on first come/first serve basis. Ofrendas will be **taken down at approx. 9:15pm. Help clean up the area before you leave.**
- c. You will have an opportunity to share the story of the person you are honoring in your ofrenda, **as well as**, hearing the stories behind the other ofrendas on display. (be sure that there is one of the team members at the ofrendas at all times and know the stories).
- d. **Complete a reflection sheet** of your experience. Explain in detail what you used on your display and the significance of it. Take a picture of your ofrenda.

Option #2: Investigation:

- a. **Research** the concept of “Death” in at least two (2) cultures different from your own, **as well as** researching the concept of death in your own culture.
- b. **Write a paper on your findings from each culture.** Be sure to cite your research references: books, articles, interviews, etc. **This paper needs to be typed.** Remember you are exploring 3 different cultures/religions views on death.
- c. **You are HOSTING THE EVENT!** You need to be here no later than 6:30pm to help in the set-up and stay the entire evening and **help with the take down and clean up. Ofrendas need to be ready by 6:00pm.** You can help your peers in this process.
- c. **Complete** an “**investigation sheet**” for the **Thursday night** Celebration that will incorporate the steps in the model for exploring “religious expression”. (handout is attached).
Review Article #17 before attending the celebration.
- d. **Write** a Reflection of the experience.

Dia de los Muertos Celebration

Class Responsibilities:

1. Help in the general set-up of the environment: tables, chairs, food, etc.
2. Set-up ofrendas
3. Participate in the entire event. Record your observations.
4. Interact with the community.
5. Help in the take-down (beginning at approx. 9:15pm)
6. Dress in warm clothing for outside.
7. This event is sponsored by this class, the Ethnic Studies Dept. and the Child Development & Educational Studies Dept. The Event is also held during class time and it is a class project. **Points will be taken off the assignment for not being accountable in hosting the event.**

Ofrenda Set-up: Campus Quad

Ofrendas need to be **set-up by 6:00pm.**

Ofrendas will be a shared experience!

You will be sharing a table with approx. two other members of the class.

You may divide the roles for bringing the basic ofrenda items, such as,

- Table coverings,
- Boxes or stands to elevate items
- Flowers
- Candles
- Dia de los Muertos “decorations”

Individually: you will share the life of someone who has died.

Some written information identifying the person

Pictures, artifacts, things they like to do, food they like to eat, etc.

For example,

The ofrenda honoring Roger Sewell (Chris’s nephew) will probably have Pictures of Roger, something Roger wrote just prior to his death, a poem his mom wrote to the family at Thanksgiving, a basket of pinecones (he loved hiking and nature), a candle holder his brother made, a picture box his dad made showing Roger in action, a message from Chris.

Adela’s ofrenda may have pictures of her parents, a rosary and books, possibly a soccer ball, special items her parents valued, their favorite foods, etc.

There will be flowers, and artifacts of Dia de los Muertos as well.

There is no “right way” to create an ofrenda. Each will be very different; yet you will see similar items that tie everyone’s ofrendas together.

Some stories are very sad, others have humor, all are very touching stories about people we cared about and we are sharing their stories with others.

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Name: _____ Grade: _____(50)

Part I: Pass It On!

1. **The Story of the Person's Life.** (Tell the story of the person you are honoring at Dia de los Muertos **OR** identify a person in your family (past or present) that you want to find out more information and share their story. This part should be written as a story.
 - a. Person Honoring: _____

2. **Your Life Memories.** In narrative form, describe specific memories that **you** have regarding special events that are important to you. Also, have **family members** share their memories as well and document.

Part II: Dia de los Muertos

3. Option 1: Designed your ofrenda for the Thursday evening Celebration
or Option 2: Research Views on Death in 3 Cultures; **AND**, Your responsibilities in hosting the event.

4. Reflection sheet of your experience. Explain in detail - be descriptive.