**Cultural Universals**

I. BACKGROUND of CULTURE (What is the time period? Where is it located? Describe the climate and vegetation. Give a physical description of the people.)

II. THEMES (What do the people value? What are their ideals? How do they get

their ideas of right and wrong? What symbols represent the culture’s values?)

III. ECONOMICS (What kinds of work do people do? What goods are produced for trade or sale? What forms of money are used? Describe the level of technology. What methods of transportation are used for trading goods?

IV. FOOD, CLOTHING, and SHELTER (Describe major types of foods the culture eats.

Describe types of clothing worn. How do people adorn themselves for special occasions? Describe the typical homes of these people: materials, size, special features.)

V. POLITICAL ORGANIZATION (Who are the rulers or who holds power? Who

makes the laws? How are the laws & punishments enforced? How does the

culture protect itself from enemies? Who makes treaties?

VI. FAMILY & RELATIVES (What does the culture recognize as a family? Who is

responsible for child rearing? What special celebrations do families enjoy?

What are special “milestones?”)

VII. ATTITUDE TO THE UNKNOWN (What are the religious beliefs of the culture?

Who are the religious leaders? What practices do the people have to honor their God or gods? What are the rituals to honor the dead?)

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS (What language do the people speak? What are the ways that they communicate? Name all the ways that people get or send information. What types of numbering system is used?)

IX. THE ARTS (What are the types of visual art created by the people? What types of

music are enjoyed? Describe types of dance and drama. Where are places where these art forms can be seen?)

X. RECREATION (How do the people like to have fun? What are the popular games and sports? What do the people do for entertainment? How do they spend their free time?