# More Transparent Version

SOC&101: Principles of Sociology

Assignment 2: Understanding Cultural Diversity—Western Shoshone Land Rights

### Due Date

Sunday, May 13th, (10% of your term grade), 1000 words maximum

### Purpose

#### Knowledge

After doing this assignment you will understand:

1. How human behavior both creates and is created by culture.
2. How cultural diversity shapes the individual experience

#### Skills

After doing this assignment you will be able to:

* Define and discuss what culture is, and how it shapes our collective identity.
* Discuss cultural diversity and the dynamics that create distinctions between cultures, such as ethnocentrism and cultural relativity.

### Task

After viewing the movie and considering the background information, write a paper (1000 words maximum) that addresses the four points below.

1. Using your textbook, define the following as we have encountered them in our course so far:
   1. material culture (economic systems)
   2. symbolic culture (different interpretations of the land and ownership
   3. cultural diffusion
   4. global culture.
2. Consider the Western Shoshone case from the perspective of each of the cultures involved. Describe and analyze the differences in the symbolic culture (different interpretations of the land and ownership) and material culture (economic systems) you see in this issue. Which culture has more power to have their definitions of reality prevail?
3. Why is the United Nations concerned with the U.S.’ treatment of the Western Shoshone?
4. How does this issue reflect difficulties in preserving cultural diversity globally?

### Criteria

See Canvas for details.

* Defines culture 10%
* Bi-cultural explanation 30%
* Explains U.N. concerns 15%
* Cultural diversity 30%
* Writing 15%