**World Geography 9**

**Heritage Interview**

In the past, America has sometimes been called “the melting pot.” This is because so many people who live in the USA come from different places. The people in this room can probably trace their lineage back to different countries and ethnicities all over the world: German, English, Irish, Chinese, Indian, Ethiopian, etc… Arizona is an even more immediate example of this. Most people living in the Phoenix area have moved here from somewhere else. You may have been born in another state (or even another country), and even if you were born in Arizona, there is a good chance your parents are originally from another state.

This trimester, as a part of our geography class, you will be given the opportunity to learn a little about your own personal geography. Where does your family come from? How does your background influence the way you speak? What family traditions are influenced by your heritage?

In order to help answer these questions, you are required to interview an adult family member about your shared heritage. You may interview a parent, a grandparent, an aunt, an uncle, etc… Ask a variety of questions related to your family’s personal geography. You will then turn in a hardcopy of the interview (typed; 2 pages double spaced minimum; Q&A format). A short introduction paragraph should inform the reader of who you interviewed and why. Use standard MLA formatting— Times New Roman, font size 12, one inch margins. If time allows, students will be encouraged to share with the class what they have learned from the interview. (Please note: you are *not* required to interview someone to whom you are biologically related. The people who love you and take care of you are your family and are part of your heritage. Of course, adoptive parents, stepparents, and other guardians may be interviewed for your project.)

**Sample Questions**

Please write questions that reflect your individual family’s situation. These questions are very generic and are only examples. Do not simply copy these questions for your interview.

1. Before coming to the United States, where did our family live?

2. How long has our family lived in the United States?

3. Where did our family settle after coming to the United States?

4. Do you speak any languages other than English?

5. Does your speech include any expressions unique to a certain part of the country?

6. Are there any interesting family stories/legends about our ancestors?

7. Do we have any family heirlooms or photographs that reflect our history or origins?

**Final draft of your paper is due Wednesday, April 5th**

Extra credit is given to students who include extra materials (e.g. scanned photographs, maps, illustrations, etc…) with their paper.