

Teaching Handouts:

Folklore

Why Use Folklore Writing Assignments?

- The connection between home and school knowledge can be promoted.
- School practices subtly send the message that students should view themselves and their families as ignorant or in opposition to school.
- Students speak from a position of power about the knowledge gained from interviews.
- Writing about a folklore requires the writer to consider the ethics of representing a real person in a text.
- Folklore is interdisciplinary, connecting writing to history, sociology, psychology, philosophy, economics, and other humanities.
- Artificial topics that are disconnected from students' lives result in boring, plagiarized writing.
- Folklore projects are interesting for the teacher to read and are often shared with people outside of school.
- The oral history needs of people, groups, and neighborhoods needs to be preserved.
- Historically, great works of literature often began as folklore stories.

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