**Further Ideas for the Interview Essay (AKA Profile Piece, Ethnography)**

**Recap:** The assignment sheet has some advice about picking a good topic, but below are some more ideas, plus some tips on the next step: coming up with questions for the interview.

**How to choose someone to interview**

* Someone from another country (could lead to an essay something like “My Freshman Year: World View and Worldliness”)
* Someone from another religion (other than your own, that is)
* Someone related to your career interests
* An interesting person you want to know more about (maybe you’ve read something about them, want to know more)
* Someone connected to a problem or project you’re interested in, meaning, they suffer from the problem or are working on fixing it
* Someone related to your book club book

**Some useful Web sites**:

SJSU Student Organizations: <http://studentorgs.sjsu.edu/>

SJSU International House: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ihouse/>

SJSU Engineers Without Borders: <http://ewb-sjsu.org/ewb-sjsu/about>

**Coming up with questions**

We will be working on this in class, but you might want to get started on your own. Below are some invention strategies that should yield some interesting questions for your interview.

* What first drew you to this topic/person? What do you want to know?
* What would your audience want to know?
* What questions are related to your purpose with this writing?
* What are some holes in what’s already been written about your person/topic?
* You can also use a journalist’s standard strategy: the “5 W’s,” Who, What, When, Where, Why, How. One way is to ask all the “who” questions you can think of, then all the “what” questions, then the “when” questions, and so on.
* Consider also where you can go to observe something related to this topic/person. This isn’t required, but it can give you good material to write about and lead to more questions if you see things that you don’t expect and maybe don’t understand.