**Identity Essay**

**English 301**

***Your task is to write an essay that complements the visual representation you created of yourself.***

**Due Date: Tuesday, August 29th at the beginning of class**

**Assignment Details:**

* Your essay must complement the visual representation you created by providing detail and depth to your subject matter.
* Use the organization step of your visual representation to determine the main ideas of your paper.
  + The categories you selected should be the topic of each paragraph.
  + Select the most important ideas or aspects of each category to represent.
* Elaborate on the visual(s) through the use of examples and explanations, ultimately explaining (or providing reasoning for) your visual choices.
* Follow strict MLA guidelines – 12 point, Times New Roman Font, 1” margins, page numbers (upper right hand), double-spaced.
* Implement MEL-Con paragraph style for body paragraphs.

**Additional Details:**

* Your essay should be no less than 600 words in length and should not exceed 1000 words. This includes an introduction and conclusion. Include a word count in the end.
* Please keep in mind that you are *indirectly* explaining your choices for the visual. You should NOT list your pictures from the visual in your essay.
* It is entirely possible that not all pictures will be covered in your essay. That is okay as long as the categories are covered.

\*\*\*Additional instructions will be provided verbally if the need arises.\*\*\*

*Example of what not to do:*

In my family, sports are important. I selected a picture of a football because it shows how we used to watch Sunday football at home. Church was also important, so I put a picture of a church and a cross. We went to church before watching football. Finally, spending time with my family was important, so I found a picture of Christmas with them. We used to also have Sunday dinner together, too.

*Example of what to do:*

Sundays were probably the most representative of our family culture for a variety of reasons. In fact, our Sundays were overall representative of typical, small-town American culture. Craig Morgan sings about this in his song, “That’s What I Love about Sunday.” Most Sunday mornings, my sister and I would either walk to Sunday school or be dropped off by my mom. We learned Bible verses, played games, and spent time with many of our schoolmates. Then, my parents would come, and we would go to church, singing “every verse of Amazing Grace” before we would “shake the preacher’s hand” – just like Morgan describes in his song. Our time spent in church cultivated the religious beliefs we would all follow through our lives. During football season though, we would hurry out of the service so we could get home and watch Sunday afternoon football. (Our preacher was a Bears fan.) As Morgan describes, our Sundays were lazy days in jeans and sweatshirts, watching sports on TV and maybe playing some games out in the back yard or on my grandparents’ farm, “not do[ing] much of anything.” When I was young, we had dinner together almost every Sunday with my grandma, grandpa, and uncle. During the holidays, however, we had huge gatherings with both family and friends. Today we do not see each other much on holidays, mainly because we are no longer in the same place, but every holiday, and often on Sundays, I am reminded of the memories we created as a family and where I came from.