

Instructions for Short Paper # 3 – Analysis

Using Roger D. Abrahams' "Interpreting Folklore Ethnographically and Sociologically," as an analytical tool (in *Handbook of American Folklore*. Indiana UP, 1983) write a brief paper (550 words) in which you analyze some ethnographic (cultural) or sociological aspect of a specific urban or rural "folk" group. The term "folk" should be interpreted broadly to include newer non-traditional types of groups such as, bikers, police, truckers, fraternities/sororities, bar maids, homeless, office workers, computer geeks, teenagers, Wal-Mart workers, etc. Define the group and analyze its folklore components or processes, **using one** of the following expressive sets: 1) verbal folklore (stories, jokes, sayings, language); 2) customs and beliefs; 3) material culture (arts and crafts); or any other kind of cultural "products." Discuss how these integrate into the social fabric of the group to maintain stability, balance and permanence.

Examples:

- ✓ "Truckers use of "handles" and its social significance"
- ✓ "The Pecking Order of Homeless"
- ✓ "Fraternity/Sorority Lore"
- ✓ "Wal-Mart folklore
- ✓ Biker Lore