Kinship Diagram Project

Anthropologists know that most societies in the world are organized around kin relationships. Kinship is used to allocate fundamental resources, determine political alliances, organize healing rituals, and for many other purposes. Thus anthropologists often spend much of their time collecting genealogical information and organizing it as kinship diagrams. In this project, you will do the same.

WHAT TO DO

1. Find a "consultant" who is willing to talk with you about his or her family. Make sure that the person understands the nature of the project – that is, that you want to elicit information that will allow you to draw a genealogical chart of the person's known relatives. For this assignment, you may **not** use yourself as a consultant, though you may "trade" information with another member of the class. Make sure you inform the consultant thoroughly about what you intend to do, and proceed only with their permission. If they are reluctant, find another person to interview.

2. Ask the consultant to help you list all of his or her known relatives. Include only those relatives that the consultant has some real information about. (For example, we all know that *somebody* had to be our great-great-great-great-grandfather, but unless the consultant knows something of that person as a real individual, do not include the person.) Begin by listing all of the consultant's relatives, using the following code (note that all are listed by their relationship **to the consultant, who is known as "ego"):**

F = father	Z (yes, "Z"!) = sister
S = Son	W= Wife
B = brother	FM = father's mother
H = Husband	MZS = mother's sister's son
M = mother	FMBS = father's mother's
D = daughter	brother's son

   FMBSWFZ = father's mother's brother's son's wife's father's sister
   And so forth.

   Note that using this code allows you to specify precisely how each person is related to ego. If you were to write down terms like "uncle," you might later not be able to specify whether they referred to ego's father's brother or mother's brother or even mother's sister's husband.

List whatever other information you can get in the following categories for individuals:

Relationship	Year of Birth	Marital History	Living/Dec.
Ego	1973		Living
1. F	1943	M2	Living
2. M	1943	M1	Living
		Div 3	
3. MH	1941	Div 2	Living
		M4	
4. MHW	1946	M3	Living
5. FF	1913	M6	Deceased
6. FM	1919	M5	Living
7. MM	1922		Living
8. MMF	1888	M9	Deceased
9. MMM	?	M8	Deceased
10. BW	1968	M11	Living
11. B	1971	M10	Living

If your consultant knows something about the person, but not everything, simply leave the missing information out. Note that there is no need to include names. List every person that the individual can remember, but do not allow the consultant to call her grandmother to get more information. We want the information that your consultant already has in his/her head.

3. Transfer the information to a kinship diagram. A sample is provided on the following page.

4. Write a one-page background description of Ego's family. Below is a sample of such a paragraph.

> *Ego is a sixteen year old sophomore at Deerfield High School. She was born in Minnesota and lived there with her family until she moved to Deerfield when she was twelve. Her parents own a large dairy farm, and both of them work it together. Her father has a degree in agriculture; her mother is trained and licensed as a veterinarian, and works part-time as a large-animal specialist in addition to helping with the farming. Ego's father's mother (6) has always lived with her family. The family considers itself "middle class" with respect to income and lifestyle. Ego's great grandparents on both sides immigrated from Norway, and the family retains a Norwegian-American ethnic identity.*

WHAT TO HAND IN

Hand in the descriptive paragraph, the list of family members, and the kinship diagram. Staple it all together.

This assignment is due Monday, January 6th , by 3:15 p.m.

Example Diagram

Ego