

Geertz--“Notes on a Balinese Cockfight”

Questions for group discussion (50 minutes)—Be as thorough as you can be!!

1. Geertz's essay is basically a “reading” of the Balinese cockfight as a “cultural text.” What does this reading tell us about the meaning of cockfights in Balinese culture?
2. Geertz believes that good anthropologists employ what he calls *thick description*, or detailed accounts of what they observe, but taking into account the larger culture within which their observations are made. To what extent does Geertz succeed in doing this in his essay?
3. Some writers have criticized Geertz's essay for describing Balinese culture in terms of Western culture. Where in his essay does he do this?

Topic & Thesis (25 minutes)

In the last 25 minutes of class, please brainstorm possible topics & thesis statements in response to essay assignment #2 (see the class syllabus in Blackboard for a link to the assignment).

Each person in the group must turn in one topic and thesis statement in response to one of the essay prompts provided on the assignment sheet linked to the class syllabus.

You may hand-write your topic/thesis statement!