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British Literature, Period 2

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WC: \_\_\_

**“Making a Mark on Culture”**

***What is the cultural significance of tattoos among various communities, and how is body art and modification received in their respective communities?***

Abstract

Research Question: What is the cultural significance of tattoos among various communities, and how is body art and modification received in their respective communities?

Research on body art will explore the significance of tattoos in three major cultural environments. The focus of the research has been divided into three categories; Tribal Culture, Prison Culture, and Modern Culture. These three areas will be looked at independently, but will be linked in order to uncover the unifying significance behind body art. Although tattoos will be the main focus, there is some discussion on other types of body modification significant to culture. Other body modification elements that will be explored are piercings and scarification. The tribal focus will center on three rural communities found in Africa, Indonesia, and Japan. The focus for prison tattoos will be on prisons in the United States; Chico State Prison, Folsom Prison, and Sing Sing Prison. The third and final approach will be in regards to modern use and acceptance in our culture. First person interviews will be conducted and ultimately the hope is to find a connection between the cultural relevance of tattoos and body art throughout world cultures.

[Downloadable Template for Outline – Optional]

***Directions: Re-work your research question into a statement. In this first draft you must include your Thesis Statement, your Subtopic, your Topic Sentences, and your evidences with citation. (NOTE: These sources are fictional and serve as example ONLY).***

Paragraph 1: *Thesis Statement*

SUBTOPIC 1: Cultural Tattoos

Paragraph 2: Background

TS: The origin of tattoos predates written history.

EV: “Body modification was a rite of passage in many early civilizations” (Johnson, 2007).

EV: “Tattoos are considered an elevation of status in some cultures” (Pedi, 2013).

Paragraph 3: Africa

TS: Early African civilizations utilize tattoos to indicate prestige within their cultures.

EV: “Coming of age for young men in the Ombumu Tribe include both tattoos on the face, that indicate age, and scarification on the back through the whipping of the elders” (McNamara, 2012).

EV: “Crying would increase the lashes given to a boy in the ceremony. The fewer lashes, the stronger the man” (McNamara, 2012).

Paragraph 4: Indonesia

TS: Indonesia is another country that uses tattooing and body modification for cultural identifiers.

EV: “On the island of Jakarta, young boys are marked at the back of the neck with a tattoo that indicates the family name or origin” (World Tattoos, 2008).

EV: “Tattoos allow the bearer a sense of pride, as well as shame” (World Tattoos, 2008).

SUBTOPIC 2: Prison Tattoos

Paragraph 5:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 6:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 7:

TS:

EV:

EV:

SUBTOPIC 3:

Paragraph 8:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 9:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 10:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 11:

TS:

EV:

EV:

Paragraph 12: *Restatement/Final Thought*

