Group Sequence 2

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**Framing Question:**
How does your culture express itself through oral tradition or urban legends?

**Further Questions to Explore in Discussion:**
What does an urban culture produce as literature vs. world culture? What are urban legends? What role do urban legends play in modern culture? Are they based on truth? Is the belief in ghosts a cultural phenomenon? How does folklore affect us as a means of literature?

**Possible Categories for Exploring Cultural Identity:**
- Country, Region
- Gender
- Age
- Sub-culture
- Language
- School
- Family
- Friends
- Beliefs

**Low-stakes Assignments:**
- Find an urban legend from your culture.
- Find an urban legend from another culture by randomly selecting a place on a world map.
- Narrative: Write an urban legend with three authors (classmates); one student for beginning, another for middle, and end.
- Telephone: to show how a person or culture can change something with each new perspective.

**High-stakes Assignments:**
- Analyze one of the legends outside your culture in an essay from the perspective of that culture or one of the legends from your culture from the perspective of another culture.
- Create an urban legend of your own and analyze it from an alternative stance.
- Peer Review in groups. Look at legends to gain insight into alternative perceptions.

**Alternate Assignment:**
- Organize and collect the class legends and accompanying analysis into a ‘publishable’ book/pamphlet to distribute to the class. Those who participate gain extra credit.
Possible Sources/ Readings:
- Oral accounts
- World Map
- Student contributions of urban legends from their culture
- *Men of Fire; Three Burning Rituals of Rebirth and Renewal; Questions of Authenticity* article (Zozobra/ El Kookooee tradition) by Jeremy Hockett
- National Geographic article on the Floritians (the memory/legend of the culture and the found artifacts of that extinct race of people, Summer 2004).

Textual Support:
- *Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing*
  - Chapter 9, “Writing to Analyze; Cultural Perspectives on Advertisements.”
  - Chapter 3, “Rhetorical Context; Recognizing Different Styles and Voices.”
  - Chapter 5, “Considering the Factors that Shape Perception.”
  - Chapter 11, “Conducting a Peer Review Workshop.”

Outcomes Addressed:
- Critical Thinking
- Conversation Between Texts
- Rhetorical Context
- Process and Revision