**Chapter One: Writing & Project Assignments**

**Writing Assignments**

1. Examine the role of Hispanics in the development of Texas over the last several centuries. Trace major changes in the Hispanic population in the state.

CT, COMM

1. Examine articles in the Texas Tribune and Austin-American Statesman. Find an article focused on Texas politics that depicts the individualistic or traditionalistic political culture. Write an essay supporting your selection as a good example.

CT, COMM

**Projects**

1. Visit the city of Houston’s geographic profiles site – (<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/chs/geographicprofiles.html>) Here you will find profiles of the various super neighborhoods. In each profile is a break down of race, age, employment status, poverty levels, education and other key characteristics of the neighborhood.

Break your students into groups and assign them four to six neighborhoods. Ask them to make a table that combines poverty levels, racial breakdown, education, and age in each neighborhood. After they compile the results ask them to list what general conclusions they can draw from the data.

Finally ask the groups to report out their data and combine in with the work of the other groups. Engage the class in a discussion around the conclusions that each group made. Which can be supported. Which cannot be supported.

CT, COMM, SR

1. Visit the Pew Foundation website: <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2013/08/29/mapping-the-latino-population-by-state-county-and-city/> After presenting the details of the report, ask your students to break into groups and select a major metropolitan area outside of Texas. Ask students to compare the Hispanic population in the area with the Hispanic population in the city in which they are living.

Once they have compared and contrasted the Hispanic populations in their Texas city with a city they’ve chosen from another U.S. State, ask them to research the state and national level representatives in those areas. The cities need to be close in both geographical size and population. Are Hispanics in these areas over, under, or adequately represented by the elected officials in these areas?

CT, COMM, SR