

Let's delve a little deeper into the world of cultural complexes and systems, shall we? It's an important concept, and the more you can identify, explain, and analyze cultural complexes and systems with ease, the better off you'll be when you take the unit exam. Make sure to label each step in your HuG Passport as you complete this task.

Step One

Pick an event, any event. Maybe a rite of passage, like

- a [bar mitzvah](#)
- a [quinceañera](#)
- or [prom](#).

Or maybe a holiday you know and love, like

- [Flag Day](#)
- or [Groundhog Day](#)?

You could even go

- [Super Bowl](#)
- or [dinner party](#).

The event you pick is totally up to you, but you can't pick a birthday party—we did that one already, and you're better than that.

Step Two

In your HuG Passport, write down at least three answers for each of the following questions. Make sure to write in complete sentences. The more detail you can provide, the better.

- What are the **practices** involved with your event? What do people do to observe the event?
- What are the **artifacts** involved with your event? Are people using certain tools, wearing specific attire, or eating a particular type of food?
- What are some of the traits that make up your event?
- Do the traits in your event form any cultural complexes? What are they?

Stuck? Here are some of Ms. Simon's notes on her chosen event, Big Block of Cheese Day (Yep, it's a thing.):

- **Practices:** People eat cheese from a giant block; people gather on the White House lawn; people ask their government officials questions about policy.
- **Artifacts:** Cheese—really big cheese; napkins, probably; sniffing salts, probably, to mask the smell of the cheese
- **Traits:** Using forks and knives to cut the cheese (*ba-dum-cha*); putting cheese in pockets for later; shouting questions over the sound of eating cheese
- **Cultural Complexes:** Put all of these things together, and you get Big Block of Cheese Day. You could also get a dinner party, a cheese tasting, or a dairy-farmers' protest at the White House. Cheese Day values include: public discourse, populism, dairy

Step Three

Now, in your HuG Passport, write a **one page expository response** explaining the following:

- How does your activity fit into an overall **cultural system**?
- What factors did you consider when determining how your activity fits into a cultural system, and why?

Here's a little excerpt from Ms. Simon's Cheese Day explanation:

Big Block of Cheese Day is one cultural complex among many that fits into a cultural system that encourages public discourse and civic engagement. Eating cheese from the same giant block as other citizens demonstrates values such as community and egalitarianism—we're all equal under the eyes of the cheese. Plus, the cheese itself signifies the government's efforts to share its wealth with the people and to ensure the peoples' needs are met.