**Informational Text – Reading Activity**

*Standard: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.*

1. Annotate the text while you read.

* Circle unknown words/terms. Use context clues to make a guess about the definition of the words/terms. Write your definition in the margins.
* Underline key ideas or ideas that seem significant and can help you understand the meaning of the text. Make notes in the margins as needed.

*Standard: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.*

1. What, in your opinion, is the central idea of the text?
2. Give three reasons/details/pieces of evidence as to why you believe that is the central idea.

*Standard: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone.*

1. Of the unknown words/terms you noted in your annotations, choose the three that seem most significant to understanding the overall meaning of the text. Write down these words/terms, as well as the definition you guessed based on context clues.

*Standard: Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.*

1. What point is Horace Miner, the author, trying to make about the Nacirema?
2. Find three details that Miner uses to support his ideas about the Nacirema.

And finally, the million dollar question: Who ARE the Nacirema?

**Reading Reflection Questions**

1. Were you surprised to discover who the Nacirema are? Why or why not?
2. How does “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” help us understand our own view of other cultures and how we are viewed by other cultures?
3. Why do some of the practices and rituals of other cultures seem odd or foreign to us?
4. Brainstorm a few other rituals/customs/traditions of the Nacirema that must seem strange to outsiders.
5. Just as Miner and probably others find the Nacirema culture strange, we often find other cultures strange. Think of an assumption you make about another culture or a cultural practice you find odd. Explain it here. (Example: the ritual of dropping babies in India, the rituals of stretching women’s necks in Thailand, or the ritual scarification in Benin).
6. What can we do when we realize we are making assumptions about others, and how can we avoid this? OR What can we do when we realize others are making assumptions about us?