**College Composition**

**August 2014**

**Tradition**

God has graced every tradition with insight into the divine mystery, from the most primitive to the most sophisticated—each has a gift to bring to the world. –*Bede Griffiths*

**TALK:** Find the oldest relative or member of your community with whom you can call, visit, email, etc. Ask about a tradition that was done when they were a child, what they know about that tradition, where it came from, and what has happened to that tradition today in the family. Has the tradition changed and why? A tradition is any practice that is expected at certain times such as putting a tooth under a pillow, coloring Easter eggs, putting out wooden shoes, etc. It can also be something like community festivals, ceremonies, or dances. Think about weddings, holidays, religion, family, community*. In your discussion find one tradition that this person practiced and has seen change over time.* Discuss why it changed. Does some form of the practice still exist today? In what ways has it changed? In what ways is it the same?

**WRITE:** Write a response to record your conversation. Reflect on what you were told, what you discovered, and what you found important or interesting.

**SHARE:** In class, each of us will take a moment to briefly discuss what tradition we learned about and what we discovered.

**DISCUSSION:** Ask each other questions about your interviews and traditions. Also discuss any connections you find between what you learned from your elder and what Martin learns from his grandfather in the story we read in class, “The Medicine Bag” by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve.

