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SC101 – Learning Activity 3

For my research paper I have chosen to discuss year-round, native islanders versus someone who moves to an island or only summers there, generally referred to as a “transplant” or “newcomer”, or “summer person”. The title of my paper will most likely read, *Island Living – What it means to be an “Islander” vs. Someone Who Lives on an Island*. I have not quite narrowed down if I will specifically discuss native islanders vs. newcomers or include year-round island living vs. summer-only residents.

I have so far found an article in the New York Times titled “Life on an Island”, a book titled “Islanders – Real Life on the Maine Islands”, and an article in the Guardian newspaper titled “Are You an Islander” that quite accurately depict island life and the feelings that “islanders” possess about what it means to be a true islander or a transplant.

Having moved to and living on an island for 20 years after marrying a native islander, I have a first-hand account of what it is like to come from “away” and try to be accepted amongst this tightknit weave of a community. I integrated myself by means of working in the general store, working for the ferry and barge company, cleaning for summer people, having children and becoming an EMT and chair of the School Board, and building a reputation for bringing native islanders, newcomers, and summer residents together by means of throwing numerous parties and gatherings that brought the whole community together. Still despite all that, are you ever truly a true islander regardless of the amount of time you spend there and what you accomplish as opposed to being born and bred there, with multiple generations of your family preceding you? This is a question I would like to explore and expand upon with my own experiences in an

ethnography style of research, accompanied by literature that supports my own personal accounts and theories on the subject.