GEOG 151 Sp07 One-page Writing Assignment Series

PERSONAL MIGRATION STORY INSTRUCTIONS AND RUBRIC

The Personal Migration Story is an exercise in which you prepare a one-page case study on the migration of yourself from your hometown to the campus that you are a student this semester. Your document will be submitted to the GEOG 151 digital dropbox and must be sent no later than 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2007. You are to use the push-pull model of migration as the organizing theme for your writing. Your essay is to have an introductory paragraph, a paragraph for each of the parts of the model (origin, obstacles, and destination), and a concluding paragraph. If your hometown is in the Grand Cities and the immediate environs of Grand Forks County, North Dakota, or Polk County, Minnesota, a personal migration story may be awkward to prepare for attending the University of North Dakota, so a family-related or friend-related or ethnic group oriented case study would be an acceptable alternative activity. Similarly, if you are a lifelong resident of the Fargo-Moorhead area and attending North Dakota State University or a lifelong resident of the Devils Lake area and attending Lake Region State College, you should follow the option cited above as it would pertain to you, too.

The format of the essay is to be a simple, one-page Word (or Word Perfect) document based upon the template which you can obtain in the Assignments section of the GEOG 151 Blackboard. The margins are to be one inch on all sides, the font size is to be 12 point with a font type such as Times New Roman or Arial at 11 point (this is a sample of that font at that font size). The template provides a space for your name, your section, and score, so use it to maintain course uniformity. It would be best to use 1.5 line spacing between lines, to indent each paragraph using a standard indentation, and to full justify the document as exemplified by this document.

The rubric for this 25 point assignment is based upon splitting the points into four sets of four points and one set of five points. There are four points maximum for each part of the essay (introduction, origin, obstacles, destination, and conclusion). The number of points awarded for each part will depend upon how well you present and support your case; the better you write, the higher the points. Five points are for following the instructions, having good mechanics (spelling, grammar, and punctuation), and using an electronic medium for delivery. The due date for this assignment has been posted, so if your essay has not been sent and received, you will lose a percentage of the 25 points. Finally, keep a copy of your document for your own files. If

you need any help on this assignment, contact your instructor as soon as possible, especially if the explanation of the model that follows is confusing.

Model Explanation. The push-pull model of migration is an extremely simple migration model. It has three components: origin, obstacles, and destination(s). At the origin are pulls (+) to stay and pushes (-) to leave. What is a pull to one person might be a push for somebody else. That aside, when the pulls to stay are outweighed by the pushes to leave, then a person is going to undertake a migration movement to a destination provided that the obstacles between these two places can be overcome. The obstacles can be physical, political, economic, or a combination of things which make it difficult for the potential migrant to move between an origin and a possible destination. Each destination has pulls (+) to come and pushes (-) to avoid, and what may be a pull for one person could be a push for another person. A potential migrant often has one or more destinations from which to choose, so the destination which has the greatest pulls to come is the new home for the migrant. The figure below is a graphic illustration of the basic principles of the model.

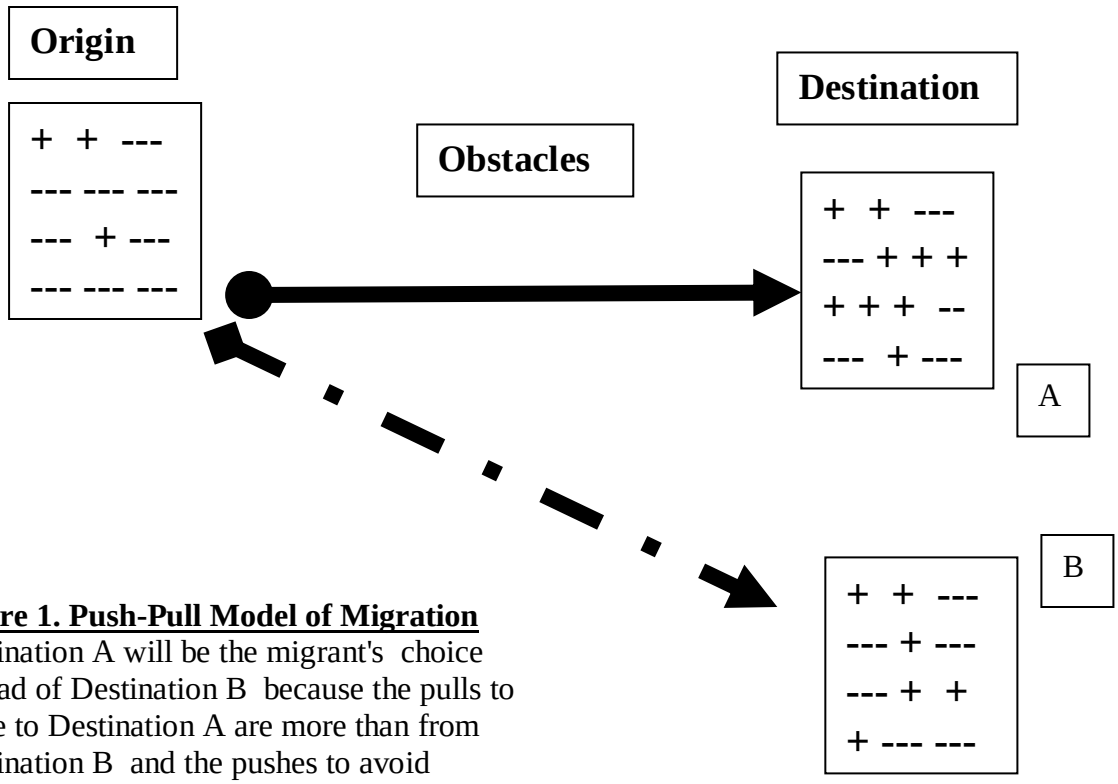

Figure 1. Push-Pull Model of Migration
Destination A will be the migrant's choice instead of Destination B because the pulls to come to Destination A are more than from Destination B and the pushes to avoid Destination A are less than for Destination B.

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