WILL HIGHTOWER’S STAGES OF FIELDWORK

Directions: Find a partner and read Will Hightower’s chapter in Talk That Music Talk (Pages 104-113) together.

You can alternate between the voices of Will and two of his mentors, Benny Jones, Sr. and Roger Lewis. While you are reading, pay attention to how Will’s experiences with music could fit into the different stages of fieldwork that anthropologists go through to learn about a different culture. When you finish the chapter, work together to fill out the questions below. Use the back of the sheet is necessary.

1. Where does Will live and what is he doing with his time prior to getting interested in music?
2. What was his most significant entreé into music and why was that the most significant?
3. Who have been important people in the world of music for him and where did he meet them?
4. What were his experiences of “culture shock?” How did he begin to overcome them?
5. How did Will begin to develop his own voice in music, or, in the words of anthropologists, begin to “develop rapport?”
6. How do his experiences with music influence how he sees the different schools that he attends?
7. On page 111, Will says, “If you go in thinking it’s just a piece of music, you are going to miss it because it’s an entire cultural entity of its own.” What does he mean?