**WEEK 2: WRITING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT**

HOMO SAPIENS, STORYTELLING, AND COOPERATION

As far as we know, only our species—*Homo Sapiens*—possesses an imagination, the ability to think about, and believe in, things that don’t actually exist.

Beyond art and storytelling, our imagination allows us to cooperate in groups that exceed a size in which we are able to know every other member of the group personally. This is because all the members of each group tell a story about that group and why they belong to it. It is that ability to cooperate in scale based on imagination and storytelling that has given us an enormous advantage over all other species, which, in turn, has given us command over the planet.

Give us a specific example of one of these groupings and explain how it gets us to cooperate and gives us either command over the natural world or over each other or over other groups.

**Please submit a 100-200 word answer via Blackboard by the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 2.**

Be prepared to discuss your answer in class.