### The Theory Continued...

There are many times when an object, idea, or individual is considered authentic by one and not the other causing a change in definition by one or the other and in rare cases both. The "work" of authentication happens in six primary ways:

1. **Ethic/Cultural Identity-ascribed group membership rather than earned**
2. **Elasticity of Group Boundaries - stretching the limits of a group**
3. **Status Identity - membership due to influence or lack of corruption**
4. **Experience - membership based on an experience or submission in the culture**
5. **Technology - heavy use of technology as foundation of claims**
6. **Expert - examples of past precedence determine what future membership should look like.**

- (Peterson 2005)

### The Plan

The plan is to create authentic interest in academics by means of one of the various authentic "work" mentioned by Peterson based on a critical assessment of the student athletes "tool box".

- Base on Swidler's theory when a person does not have the right tools to solve a problem or create a plan of action to respond to if they go into what is commonly known as "cultural shock". In the case of some student athletes they have not been adequately prepared for the course load or the content of their college level course schedules which leads to an abandonment of the expectations and a digression to the familiar strategies of action.

- In high school many of the athletes were able to be successful because of the prestige that they received due to their athletic ability or they were excused for their learning disabilities for the same reasons.

### The Introduction

The stereotypical image of the student athlete is one of an individual that is primarily interested in the second half of their name sake and counts on their athletic talent to excuse them from academic expectations. Like many stereotypes the truth behind the phenomena of the academically disinterested student athlete has much more sociological and psychological than initially meets the eye.

One of the most famous student athletes was a wrestler whose feats in the Pala gained him the nick name Plato for his large plate like forehead that he would gouge into his opponents. He new that in order to enlighten the young Greek men he needed to go where they were which way the gymnasium. The place that Plato taught was the Akademia, Those that attended were the academicians and so began the connection of athletics and the academy.

The organization that my plan is for has the responsibility of mapping the academic pathways of student athletes at the Division 1 level. The most challenging part of their mapped plans is the completion of those plans by the student athletes. My Improvement Plan targets the problem that is created when the athletes become disinterested in their academic plans due to a disconnection between what the organization does for them and what they want for themselves.

### Services for Student Athletes

**Services for Student Athletes ensures that students who are currently or have been affiliated with University's Athletics, regardless of athletic eligibility, are provided every opportunity to accomplish academic goals and earn a degree.**

*Note: Services as listed above are available to all student athletes. The NCAA requires that student athletes are enrolled as full-time students (twelve credits) every term and that they pass at least half (six) of those credits in order to be eligible to participate in athletic related activities for the University sponsored team. Related activities include but are not limited to lifting weights, practices, competitions, meetings, and recreational activities.*

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- **Before each term the Services for Student Athletes team creates course schedules that will best complete their organizational goal (See above).**

- **Services for Student Athletes (SSA) also create tutoring schedules and provide learning specialists to help student s be most successful at the classes that are offered to them. SSA has a monitoring program that makes sure the student athletes are going to class and that they are going to their appointments and that the work carried out in those appointments is on task.**

- **All Student Athletes are placed in one of three classifications or tiers of learning assistance needed. Which are based on the student's accumulative GPA.**

- **The Tier Classifications for Student Athletes**
  - (1) A student with a 3.0 GPA and above can sign up for tutoring or learning specialist help as needed.
  - (2) A student with a 2.5-2.99 GPA has four hours of structured study hall, which means tutors are assigned for them, and they can sign up for tutoring or learning specialist help as needed.
  - (3) A student with a GPA below 2.5 has eight hours of structured study hall, which means tutors are assigned for them as well as a learning specialist.

Despite all of the structured study and assistance rendered by SSA there are still student athletes that do not maintain the needed level of credits passed each term to participate with their team in athletic related activities. When this happens the team that the student participates with becomes weaker and has to look for replacement players until the student is academically eligible again if ever.

### References