



Writing from the Piko

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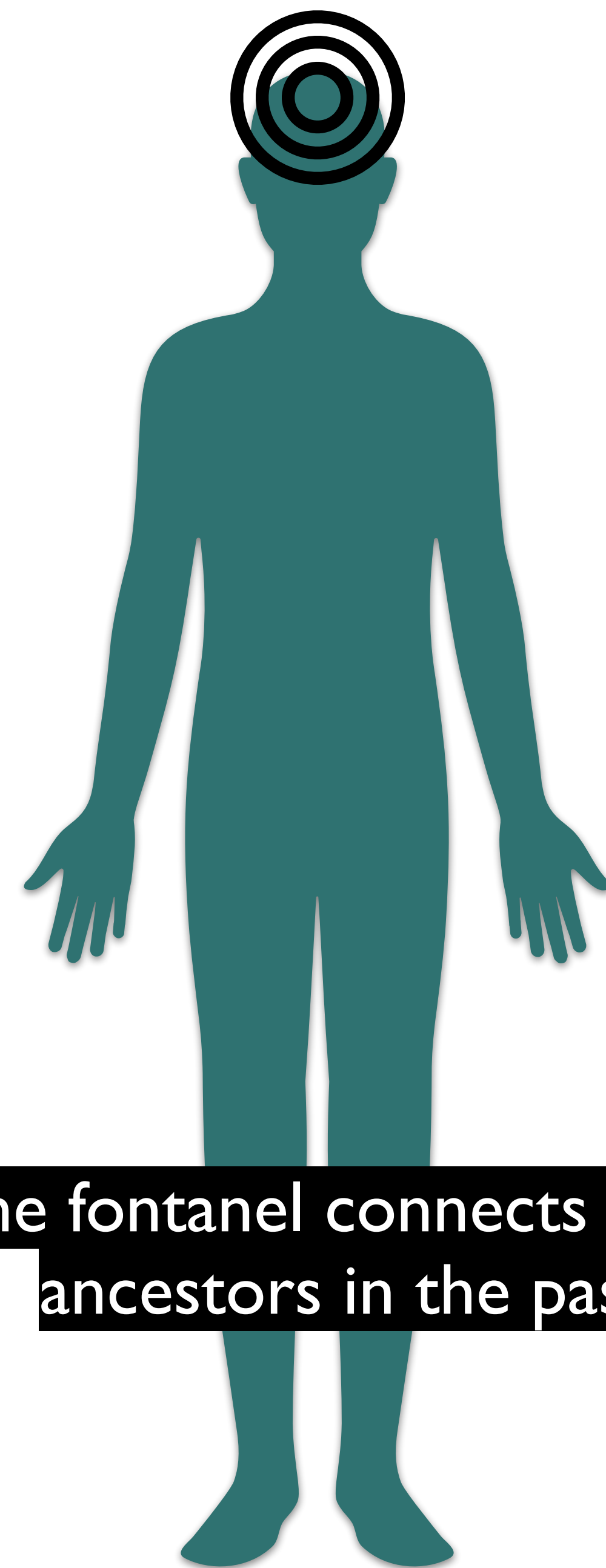
Piko Metaphor I

PIKO: FONTANEL

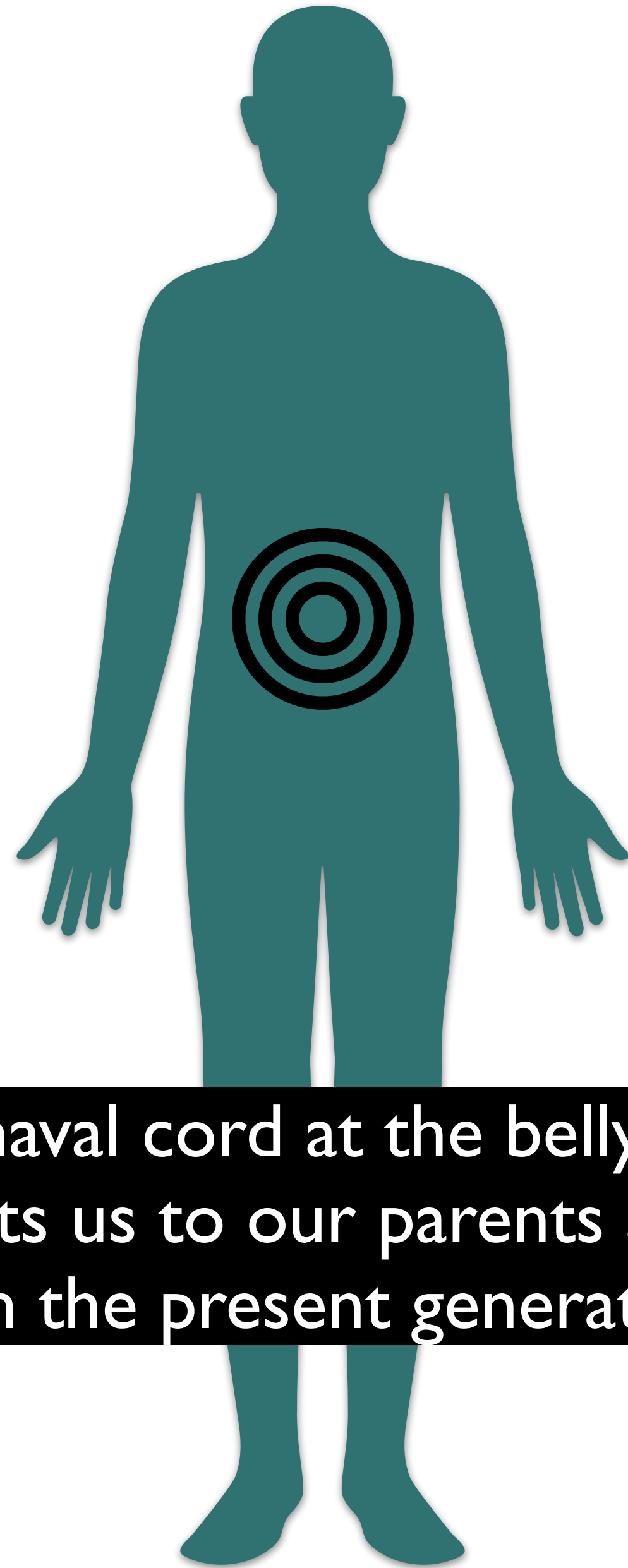


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WRITING FROM THE PIKO



The fontanel connects us to
ancestors in the past

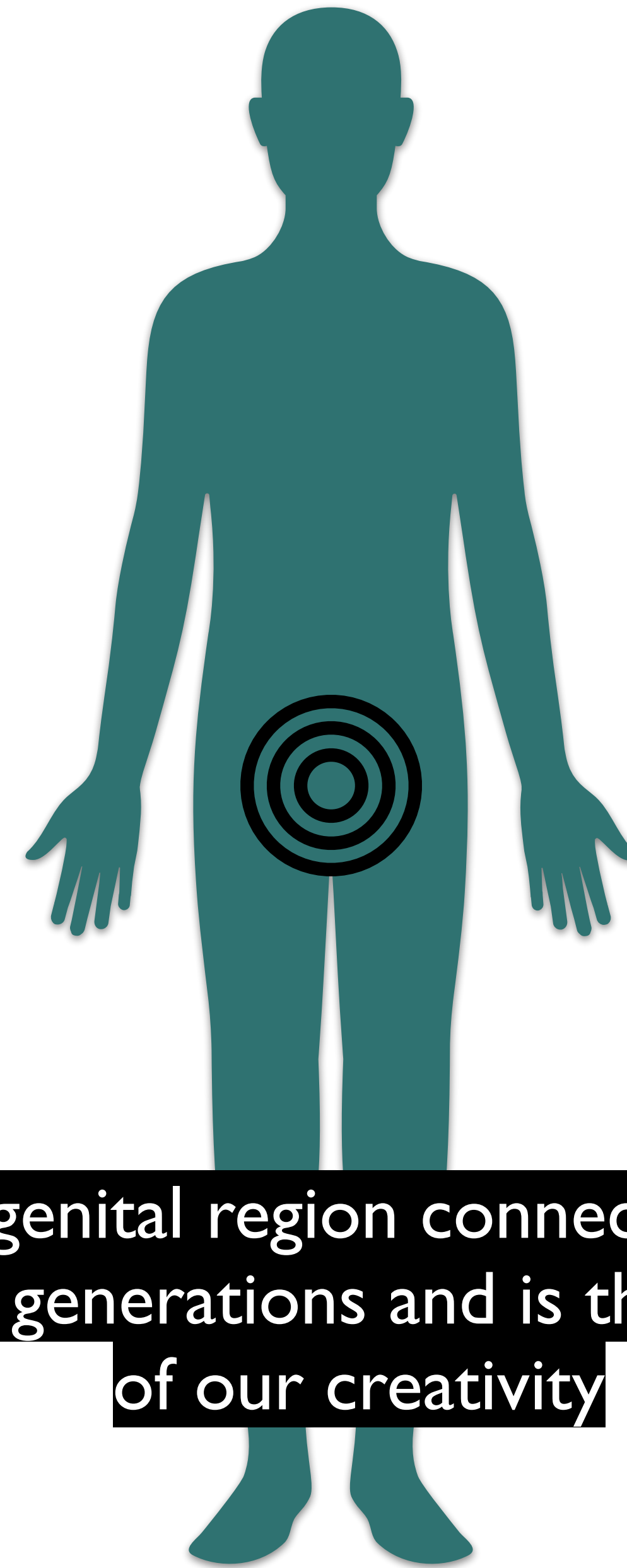


The naval cord at the belly button connects us to our parents and those in the present generation

PIKO: UMBILICAL



PIKO: GENITAL



The genital region connects us to future generations and is the source of our creativity

Piko Principles



PILINA



Pilina: relations to **‘āina** (land), to **akua/‘aumakua** (deities), to **kūpuna** (ancestors), to each other

Story questions to ask:

- What is my connection to the peoples, places, source materials?
- What is my positionality (point of view) based on my identity markers (race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, religion, immigration status, etc.)
- What relations exist in this story? What is the quality of these relations? What values, motivations, world views are portrayed through these relations?

Ike: knowledge systems
(mythological, religious, scientific,
political, etc.), specialized **welo**
(inherited traits), apprehending the
world through sensory data and
na'au (intuitive, gut instinct)

Story questions to ask:

- What forms of knowledge are presented in this story? Who gets to make/share knowledge and who does not? Is knowledge powerful and how is that power wielded?
- Who/what is the source of this knowledge and what is their credibility? Who has access to various levels of knowledge? Does everyone have the right to know everything or should some knowledges be concealed/protected? Who owns the knowledge? What about collective insights?

IKE



KULEANA



o

Kuleana: responsibilities, privileges, rights, accountability, ethics, care

Story questions to ask:

- What is your responsibility to the story?
- How do you ethically care for the story and those who shared it with you?
- What is expected of you as the writer/reader of a story?

‘Ōlelo: languages and literacies,
including nonverbal communication,
music, ocean, cloud

Story questions to ask:

- Which language(s)/voice are most appropriate to use for each audience?
- Literacies: communication through/with music, art, oceans, clouds, movement, nonverbal
- What are the benefits and limitations of using each language?
- When/why do we code switch between languages?

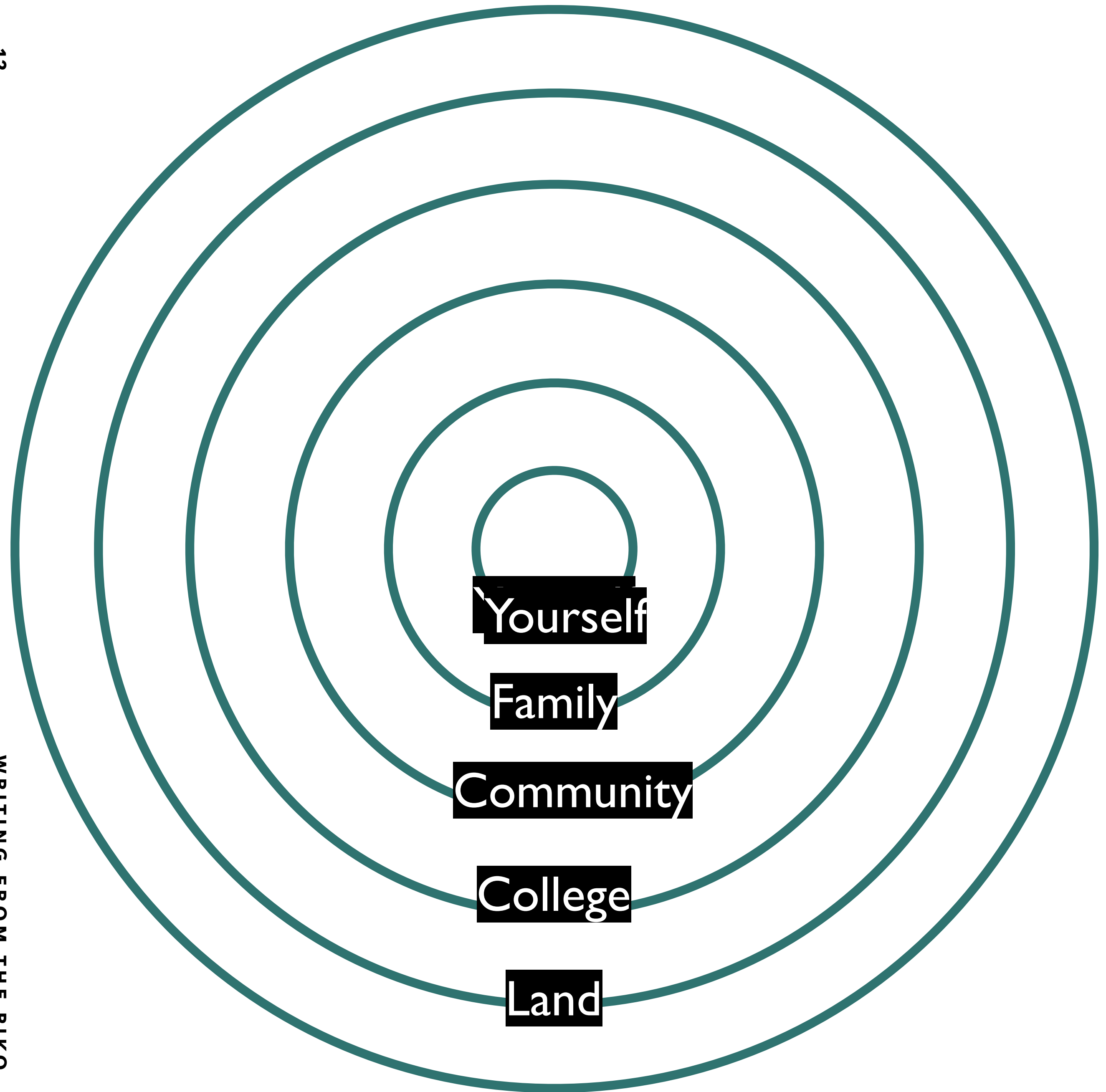
‘ŌLELO





Piko Metaphor II

SPHERES



- We are empowered as change-makers to engage kuleana (reciprocal responsibilities), starting from our center and moving out into wider communities or spheres of influence
- Creative Writing involves vulnerability because we are sharing our truth and voicing our perspectives with ever widening audiences (who may/not be supportive of our voices/views)
- Who is in each of your circles? Which people support your growth, creativity, imagination, critical thinking?
- Create “brave spaces” (no real “safe spaces”) where all voices can be vulnerable, speak truth, and be heard in an equitable way

CIRCLES



QUESTIONS



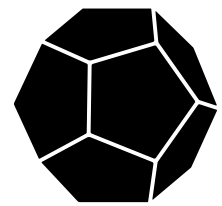
Space versus Place: how do we make meaning?

What is the place you feel most connected to? your piko 'āina



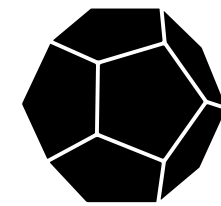
QUESTIONS

What are the challenges that you experience (re)connecting to your piko? What are the obstructions?



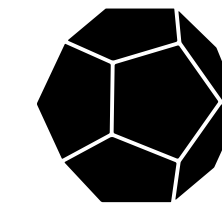
PRACTICE EXERCISE #1

Use art supplies to create an image of this place you feel most connected to. Art moves us beyond language limitations



PRACTICE EXERCISE #2

Write about this piko 'āina and why it is so significant. Describe it in detail. Is there an anecdote (short story) that best captures its meaning?



PRACTICE EXERCISE #3

Write a letter to someone in the future about the challenges you are facing (re)connecting to your piko.



Writing from the Piko

End Presentation