

Activity #1: Getting Started

You will keep a journal of all popular culture exposure that you experience for 24-48 hours. Make sure to include as much as you can, making sure to include: music, movies, TV, advertising, social media, gaming etc...as well as discussions about popular culture.

For your discussion post answer the following questions:

- What surprised you the most and the least about your experience?
- What were the 2-3 most influential elements of popular culture that you experienced, to your own life?
- What made those elements the most influential?

Be prepared to discuss your activity in class on Thursday.

Activity #2: Show and Tell

Identify and discuss a contemporary trend or fad in popular culture. Find something that is popular and “trendy.” Try to select something that you or members of your social group have embraced.

For your discussion post answer the following questions:

- Explain and describe (or link or upload) the fad or trend
- Consider the social impact of this trend, what implications does it have for the social world?
- Finally, address the “spread” of the trend, how did you learn about it and what role does your social group have on its popularity.

Be prepared to discuss your activity in class on Thursday.

Activity #3 High/Low Culture Report

Identify an example of a cultural artifact that is associated with High Culture, Middle Culture and Low Culture.

For your discussion post answer the following questions:

- Describe each cultural artifact and discuss what level of with which it is associated
- Explain what elements make this artifact associated with its cultural level?

- How does this association impact the product and the people associated with this product?

Be prepared to discuss your activity in class on Thursday.

Activity #4 Beyond the Borders Activity

Conduct some research on contemporary US popular culture. Identify some aspect of popular culture that has emerged from the culture of another nation or people. Examples might include anime, food, video games, music, Bollywood movies etc...

For your discussion post answer the following questions:

- Explain and describe (or link or upload) this cultural artifact
- Tell us about its origin and discuss how it became part of US popular culture?
- Is this an example of transnational culture or cultural appropriation? Explain.

Be prepared to discuss your activity in class on Thursday.

Activity #5 GenderAds

Explore the website [The Gender Ads Project](#). Select a topic to discuss and look at the ads housed in the archive.

For your discussion post answer the following questions:

- Tell us what you selected and explain what patterns you identified?
- What impact might the patterns you identified have on contemporary culture?
- Why do you think advertisers use the representations that they do in an attempt to sell products?

Be prepared to discuss your activity in class on Thursday.