

Final Paper

Select one of the following prompts for your final project.

Pop culture incarnate. (5-7 pages)

Choose a text from popular culture that demonstrates the very essence or nature of pop culture. We have identified many pervasive themes that characterize popular culture broadly:

- Explain the nature and history of the text or artifact you have selected.
- Next, discuss how or why you chose this aspect of pop culture?
- Consider how this text reinforces or resists social norms and cultural identity?
 - Does it challenge norms or reinforce them? How?
 - Does it challenge dominant culture or reinforce it?
- Where does popular culture come from? The consumer or the culture industry? Is there an overlap?
- Select an approach to popular culture analysis (Functionalist, Interactional or Critical) and discuss how it applies to your discussion.

Compare two pop cultural texts. (5-7 pages)

For example, *Family Guy* and *Grey's Anatomy*, or *Harry Potter* novels and *Spider-man* comic books. They need to be sufficiently different to provide a basis for comparison. Pick two (or more if you'd like), hopefully disparate pop culture texts. Be sure to include the following relevant details:

- Explain the nature and history of the text or artifact you have selected.
- Next, discuss how or why you chose this aspect of pop culture?
- Compare and contrast the two artifacts, how are they alike, how are they similar?
- What view do they take of the world?
 - a. How does this view influence the viewer? What do they tell us about the people who watch, create and enjoy the show?
 - b. What does one medium afford over another one? What can TV shows do that books can't and vice versa.
- Select an approach to popular culture analysis (Functionalist, Interactional or Critical) and discuss how it applies to your discussion .

Pop Cultural Artifact. (Creative work and 3-4 page essay)

You will be making your own pop culture artifact. This can be out of anything you like; a diorama, a work of pop art paper Mache, 3d sculpture. A Youtube video or mp3, live performance, skit, anything you are comfortable with.

In the essay part (yes, writing is involved), tell me about your artifact.

- Be sure to include it or some facsimile of it.
 - Tell me what you did and why.
- What point are you illustrating?
- How are you critiquing pop culture or some facet of it?
- Be sure to add anything else relevant. What does your artifact say about our culture? How is it a product of our culture?
- Select an approach to popular culture analysis (Functionalist, Interactional or Critical) and discuss how it applies to your project.