

# Pop Culture

ENG 20F

## Exploring Pop Culture with Questions

Pop culture includes music, movies, television shows, magazines, video games and any activity that is commonly participated in by a large number of people. Pop culture reflects the values,



attitudes and desires of a group of people, however large or small that group may be. There are a few questions to be aware of to start this examination of pop culture: who are the “in” people who produce the



values, attitudes and behaviours? Who are the people

that are influenced by those views? How does pop culture influence people? Is it automatic that a person will be influenced by elements of pop culture around her/him? Are there certain, specific ways of thinking about pop culture that are dangerous? Are there certain, specific ways of thinking about pop



culture that are helpful? Is it possible to avoid pop culture? Is pop culture automatically good or bad? What happens if a person wants to be sheltered or protected from pop culture? How do the following people respond to pop culture: parents, children, churches,

media, entertainment industries? What are the images that pop culture suggests represent us? Is there anything good about that? Is there anything problematic with that? How can/should a person respond to pop culture?

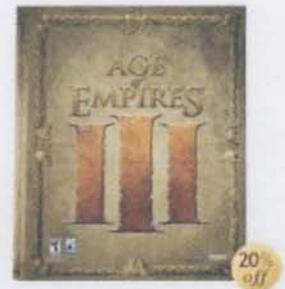
What does pop culture say about: Gender Identities? Social stereotypes? Public conduct? Appearance? Consumerism? How can people respond to the issues raised by pop culture?

What are some of the questions you have about pop culture?



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Identifying issues
- Raising questions
- Critical thinking
- Explaining how to respond to questions

## Assignments and Options

There are two ways in which you will be asked to address these questions about pop culture: First you will work in a group to discuss the questions from “Exploring Pop Culture ...” and whatever additional questions you and your group have

created. And secondly you will be asked to analyze your own response to the issues by preparing a two to three minute speech or a five to ten minute panel presentation or talk show on the topic (depending on whether you choose to work

alone, with a partner or in a group). In your speech/presentation you should analyze a specific aspect of pop culture and the message (s) they promote and how you think society should respond to them.

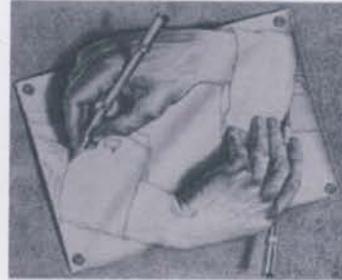
## Analysis Component

You may choose to work alone, with a partner or in a group of up to four people (but not five, and six is definitely out of the question). Choose any item that can be found in the massive collection of what is pop culture. It can be pretty much anything (movies, CDs, magazines, billboards, consumerist products ... if you're not sure that your item qualifies, ask). Prepare an oral presentation in which you explain what your item is and then conduct an analysis of what messages your selected item might be offering and some possible ways of responding to the item.

Your presentation should include the

following items: (a) Placing your piece into an appropriate context; (b) An introduction to the artist who created your piece; (c) An identification of the issues you have chosen; (d) An analysis of the key issue in which you apply some of the questions from page one to your item; (e) play, read, show your selection to the class; (f) field any questions from your classmates about your piece and/or your presentation.

Take note: The order in which you put your presentation together need not follow the letters above. Be as creative as you which in constructing your presentation.



*"We must not accept an idea as good just because someone suggests it is good."*

## Oral Presentation Rubric

### Central Idea & Analysis

central idea or focus is clearly stated

adapted to audience

adapted to assignment

### Supporting Materials

ideas support focus

ideas are appropriate

sufficiently developed ideas

progression of ideas is reasonable, clear and valid

### Organization

beginning engages interest, indicates purpose and defines terms

development – identifies major subsections clearly

ideas are effectively arranged

internal summaries and transitions

ending is significant and relevant to topic

### Delivery

extemporaneous style of delivery

intensity and rate appropriate for topic

gestures and body language complementary, not awkward or artificial

eye contact appropriate and meaningful  
language choices appropriate for topic and intensity

### Additional Detail

speech conforms to time limit requirement

outline for speech submitted

enthusiasm/emotion appropriate

personal assessment of speech after delivery

Each category is scored on a five point scale in which numbers represent quality: 5 – excellent; 4 – very good; 3 – good;

2 – needs improvement; 1 – something went

To speak and to speak well are two different things."

~ Ben Johnson



Lots of people have to talk as part of the roles they play in life.

## Oral Presentation Rubric

### Central Idea & Analysis

central idea or focus is clearly stated

adapted to audience

adapted to assignment

### Supporting Materials

details about the topic are:

limited/generalized

clear & Developed

thorough/insightful

ideas support focus

ideas are appropriate

sufficiently developed ideas

progression of ideas is reasonable, clear and valid

### Organization

beginning engages interest, indicates purpose and defines terms

development – identifies major subsections clearly

ideas are effectively arranged

internal summaries and transitions

ending is significant and relevant to topic

### Delivery

extemporaneous style of delivery

intensity and rate appropriate for topic

gestures and body language complementary, not awkward or artificial

eye contact appropriate and meaningful

language choices appropriate for topic and intensity

### Additional Details

speech conforms to time limit requirement

Each category is scored on a five point scale in which numbers represent quality: 5 – excellent; 4 – very good; 3 – good; 2 – needs improvement; 1 – something went badly wrong.

To speak and to speak  
well are two different  
things.”  
~ Ben Johnson