

Writing Project One

Identity and Popular Culture

For this assignment, you'll be asked to look at how identity is shaped through popular culture. You can explore these connections through one of the following prompts:

- Pick a subculture of which you consider yourself an insider or an outsider and explore why you feel that way. Consider the ways in which you do and do not conform to the stereotype of that group. Do you, for example, consider yourself an athlete? In what ways do you and do you not conform to the stereotypical view of an athlete presented in various media?
- Consider the ways in which you have contributed to your own pop culture niche, both personally and publically. Think about different ways in which you have shaped the ways that you are viewed. For example, do you keep a blog or have a Facebook page? Do you include or not include certain information based on who will be viewing it? Do you consciously shape a certain view of yourself through pictures and videos you post or what you choose to say?
- Explore the pop culture elements that you have embraced earlier in your life. How are those influences present in your life today? For example, you may have liked a certain type of music as a middle school student and don't like it now but can still see ways in which it affects your clothing choices (both in what you choose to wear or what you choose *not* to wear).
- Consider how actively you have shaped your identity throughout your life and how fluid your identity has been. How have pop culture choices been a part of that identity creation? How have those choices been a conscious effort to form an identity and how have they been unconscious? At what point in your life did you begin to make conscious pop culture choices as a part of your identity? How flexible do you think that identity is? You may, for example, consider various "phases" of clothing choices. Were those phases based on the music you were enjoying at the time? Were the clothing choices made consciously in order to try to join the group of people who like that kind of music or did they grow unconsciously simply out of your tastes.?

Your assignment will be graded on the following:

- **Appropriate topic focus:** The connection between identity and popular culture is the clear focus of the paper. The essay makes a central claim (either in an explicit or implied thesis statement).
- **Use of specific supporting evidence:** The paper uses personal experience and specific popular culture examples to support and develop the thesis.
- **Content organization:** The draft is organized in a logical and appropriate way, with an effective introduction and conclusion as well as transitions between paragraphs.
- **Manuscript preparation:** The final draft of the paper has been polished with consideration to instructor and peer comments. The paper addresses audience expectations and follows academic writing conventions.

Minimum length: 1,000 words

Additional requirements: All drafts must be typed, double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Please use 1-inch margins. All documents must be accessible through Microsoft Word.

Audience: The audience for the first paper is the class, both the other students in the class and the instructor.

First drafts are due on **August 31st**

Revised drafts are due on **September 5th**

Final drafts are due on **September 16th**

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