Culture & Literature Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Culture & Literature Research Paper

As part of your New Paltz credit requirements, will be writing a short research paper on a topic of interest to you in popular culture.

**Steps:**

1. Choose a topic of interest to you.
2. Create a question about your topic.
3. Research the topic. [Refine question if necessary.]
4. Compose a thesis which answers your research question.
5. Prove your thesis in a short research paper.

**Requirements**:

* Thesis statement that is debatable and expandable
* Minimum 3-4 pages typed, doubled spaced, 12pt font
* Minimum 3 research sources
* 1 of the 3 research sources must be a print (non-internet) source (i.e. a magazine, newspaper, book)
* Paper should include internal citations
* Paper should include an accurately formatted Works Cited page at the end
* **Paper must be submitted in both hard copy (paper) format and** ***electronic format on or before the due date to turnitin.com***

**Considerations**:

* Be sure your paper is debatable; it should not be a report, but rather, a paper with an argument that you can support
* Be wary of plagiarism; you must CITE all of your sources both at the end of the paper and internally within the paper; plagiarism will result in a zero for all parties concerned
* Consult www.easybib.com for help in formatting your Works Cited page correctly. Remember that works on this page should be listed alphabetically.

**Resources:**

Go to **http://www.mcmaneclasses.com** for links to resources for the paper. There you will find links to a pop culture database as well as many reputable sources for pop culture research.

Click on **English 12**, and then **Pop Culture** **Research Paper**.

**Final Copy should be stapled in the following order:**

* Titled final draft, typed, double-spaced
* Outline sheet (to be handed out in class)
* Rubric (attached) with your own self-grade

**Pop Culture Research Paper: Suggested Topics**

* The Portrayal of The Mafia in American Film
* “Family Guy”: Satire of the All-American Family
* The Cult of *Star Wars*
* How are Women Portrayed in Advertising?
* Who Made the Best Batman? An Exploration of the Batman Franchise
* The Yankees vs. The Mets: Rival Fans, Rival Cultures
* The Appeal of “Reality TV” in 21st Century America
* What Teen Magazines Sell Girls
* Television Stereotypes of the Teen Boy
* Disney and Diversity: Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes in Disney Films
* The Depiction of Teens in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Gone But Not Forgotten: The Legacy of Marilyn Monroe (or Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, etc.)
* The Kardashian Kulture: How and Why are They So Popular?
* The Evolution of the Female Superhero in American Popular Culture
* The Appeal of Japanese Anime in American Society
* Do Romantic Comedies Give us Warped Expectations of Real Life?
* Celebrities as Role Models
* Do Violent Video Games Encourage Violent Kids?
* Rap and Race Relations
* “Sesame Street” and the Values of Children’s Television Programming
* Why is K-Pop the new sensation?
* Celebrity Couples From Brangelina to Kimye: Why Do We Care?
* YouTube and Instagram: Living Life Online – Positive or Negative?
* Shock Jocks: Racist and misogynist speech on the radio
* Reality TV vs. Real Life
* Desire, Sex, and Power in Music Videos
* Disney’s *Frozen* as a Feminist Film
* Pottermania: Harry Potter’s Place in Pop Culture
* Michael Jackson: Flawed, Tragic Figure
* The Disney Princess Culture
* Subliminal Messages in Advertising
* Masculinity in Contemporary Hollywood Films
* Native American Mascots in Sports
* Zombies in Pop Culture
* The Importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Pop Culture
* The “Modern Family” Effect – Pop Culture’s Role in the Gay Marriage Evolution
* How “Stranger Things” Brought Back 80s culture
* “Friends” 25 Years Later: Is it still funny or outdated?
* The Portrayal of Immigrants in American Pop Culture
* Comic-Con and the Culture of Cosplay
* Bill Cosby, Woody Allen, and Ryan Adams: Can we still enjoy them after all the accusations?
* How did Ellen change American Pop Culture?
* Biggest Pop Culture Fails of the Last Decade
* Women in Comedy
* TikTok: Positive or Negative Influence on Society?
* What Can We Learn From Meme culture?

See the website for ideas of other topics.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCORE**  **English 12/New Paltz Rubric for Essay With Outside Sources** | **5 Exceeds**  **(100-91)** | **4 High Meets**  **(90-81)** | **3 Meets**  **(80-71)** | **2 Approaches**  **(70-61)** | **1 Does Not Meet**  **(below 60)** |
| **PURPOSE/MEANING**:  the extent to which the response exhibits sound understanding, interpretation, and analysis of the task or text | Reveals both in-depth analysis and independent thinking; makes insightful and original connections. | Reveals in-depth analysis; makes insightful connections. | Reveals understanding of topic; makes clear connections. | Reveals basic understanding of topic; makes some connections. | Rarely reveals understanding of topic; seldom makes connections. |
| **DEVELOPMENT:** the extent to which ideas are elaborated using specific and relevant evidence | Develops ideas expertly, thoroughly demonstrating an unusual ability to interest a reader through use of substantive details.  *Incorporates specific and sophisticated evidence from outside sources.* | Develops ideas clearly and fully, effectively using of a wide-range of relevant/specific details.  *Incorporates specific and relevant evidence from outside sources.* | Develops ideas clearly, using relevant/specific details.  *Attempts to incorporate relevant evidence from outside sources.* | Develops ideas briefly, using some detail.  *Little or irrelevant evidence from outside sources.* | Rarely develops complete ideas or details.  *No evidence used from outside sources*. |
| **ORGANIZATION**:  the extent to which the response exhibits direction shape and coherence | Maintains clear, coherent focus; exhibits logical, well-reasoned structure and sophisticated transitions; creates an engaging focus on topic | Maintains clear, appropriate focus; exhibits logical, coherent structure and appropriate transitions; creates a clear focus on topic | Maintains clear focus; exhibits mostly logical structure, including transitions; creates a focus on topic | Maintains somewhat clear focus; sometimes exhibits logical structure, sometimes through transitions; somewhat focuses on topic | Rarely maintains clear focus; rarely exhibits logical structure through transitions; does not clearly focus on topic |
| **LANGUAGE USE:**  the extent to which the response reveals an awareness of audience and purpose through an effective use of words, sentence structure, and sentence variety | Demonstrates sophisticated command of language; is eloquent and appropriate to the rhetorical situation. | Demonstrates worthy command of the language; is precise and appropriate to the rhetorical situation. | Demonstrates command of the language; is clear and appropriate to the rhetorical situation | Demonstrates some command of the language; is somewhat clear and appropriate to the rhetorical situation | Rarely demonstrates some command of the language; is seldom clear or appropriate to the rhetorical situation |
| **CONVENTIONS:**  the extent to which the response exhibits conventional spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, capitalization, grammar, and usage: | Exhibits nearly flawless use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation, etc.); always exhibits correct spelling and precise use of vocabulary  *Correct use of MLA format.* | Exhibits correct use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation, etc.); exhibits correct spelling and understanding of vocabulary  *Correct use of MLA format* | Exhibits mostly correct use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation, etc.); exhibits mostly correct spelling and understanding of vocabulary  *Attempts correct MLA format* | Exhibits somewhat correct use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation, etc.); exhibits somewhat correct spelling and some understanding of vocabulary  *MLA format incorrect or incomplete.* | Rarely exhibits correct use of mechanics (grammar, punctuation, etc.); frequently misspells and misuses vocabulary.  *No MLA format used.* |

*\*Please note: Words in italics reflect additional Tappan Zee High School requirements.*

Self-grade (mark the appropriate boxes above): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 12

**Culture and Literature Research Paper Due Dates**

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| **STEP** | **EXPLANATION** | **DATE DUE** |
| Step 1 | **Topic due.** Gather research in library. |  |
| Step 2 | **Research question due.** Continue research in library. |  |
| Step 3 | **Thesis draft due.** Finish gathering research. Highlight articles, take notes, begin to outline your paper.  How to outline:  Your paper will have at least four body paragraphs because it is a 3-4  page paper. Decide what will go in each paragraph.  Sample Outline:  TOPIC: Portrayal of Asian-Americans on TV  THESIS: Although they have played and continue to play an integral role in  multicultural America, the mainstream news and mass media  have been slow to recognize Asian-Americans as individuals  rather than stereotypes.  BODY PARAGRAPHS:   1. Stereotypes   -exotic woman, “China doll,” less intelligent, incapable of logic   1. Asian Americans as comic relief   -overplayed accents, physical comedy  -*Sixteen Candles, Breakfast at Tiffany’s*   1. Asian Americans as martial arts experts   -*The Karate Kid, Kill Bill*   1. Asian Americans as portrayed by the news media   -Virginia Tech shooting |  |
| Step 4 | **Three sources due.** You must have notes on each source AND a list of  them in the proper bibliographic format to get full credit. You may  either write them down on your process sheet, or hand in a print-out  from easybib.com. |  |
| Step 5 | **Outline due**. (See above) Begin work on research paper. |  |
| Step 6 | **Research paper rough draft due.** |  |
| Step 7 | **Peer Review due.** |  |
| Step 8 | **Final draft due with proper internal citations. If you do not how to do them, see the website (mcmaneclasses.com) for help.** You must submit a printed copy (double spaced, 12pt font, with Works Cited) in class and a digital copy via turnitin.com. |  |
| Step 9 | **Self-grade on the rubric before you turn the paper copy into your teacher.** |  |

**Your paper will not be accepted without a Works Cited and BOTH the printed and digital copies!**