

ANTH 310 American Culture
Winter, 2015 Guidelines for Second Paper

Theme.

The general theme of this paper is an examination of what we call popular culture in America. Popular culture can include the following broad areas.

- Folk music
- Some other kinds of music – Blues, rock, rap and variations and combinations of these
- Movies
- Television
- Sports
- Public events such as parades or fairs
- Festivals
- Fashion/clothing
- Folk tales, myths, urban legends
- Folk art –also public art, murals, etc.
- Advertizing—maybe
- Socialmedia—maybe
- ...and more

★ **Structure your paper.**

- Choose an example or several comparative examples in one of these broad areas, or talk to me if you have another area or example of popular culture.
- Describe its major or salient features—what are its most characteristic or important features?
- If possible, give a brief account of the origins of this example or its context.
- Analyze the meanings it conveys and what it “says” about American cultural or popular values, beliefs, tastes, desires, character.
- Evaluate if possible the impact of this expression of popular culture of American society.
- Mention why you chose this particular example.

★ **Important.** This paper is about how expressions of popular culture express aspects of the culture, what Americans broadly believe, feel, etc. – not simply your own.

Format.

- Length: 5-6 pages typed, double-spaced—~~this replaces instructions in Syllabus that say 7-8 pages~~
- Sources: Consult and list sources that help you describe or interpret your example(s). This can be scholarly or popular articles in print or online. Give full citation and location of all sources you use. There is no required minimum number of sources, but be sure you can explain your ideas and interpretations. They should be based on more than pulling a vague association out of your head.
- Style: Use any accepted style—Chicago, MLA, etc.—but be consistent.

Due: February 23 in class.

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