

The purpose of this set of fieldnotes is to encourage you to pay attention to when and how messages about race or ethnicity appear in the media you consume every day. This set of fieldnotes has two parts: (1) observation and data recording, and (2) reflection.

(1) Observation. For 2 consecutive days, pay attention to ALL of the media you consume (at least 5 unique entries a day (total: 10 entries). These media can include TV shows, news programs and newspapers, sportscasts, movies, You Tube videos, video games, websites, blogs, podcasts, etc. We want you to record how and when race or ethnicity appear in these media as well as the kinds of messages about race/ethnicity that are being sent. This can be challenging, because sometimes the messages are not explicit or direct, but are instead implied or "under the surface." Pay attention to the messages that our favorite programs and podcasts send about this issue. Your data collection table will need to include:

- day of the week
- type of media + specific title
- a brief summary of how race/ethnicity appeared (or didn't appear)
- a brief statement of the message this sends about race/ethnicity; the meaning that race/ethnicity holds in this particular media sample
- a note about your personal response to this. Were you surprised to see race/ethnicity depicted this way? Or, are you used to it?

Your data table will need to look something like this:

Day	Media/Title	Race/Ethnicity	Message	Reaction
Mon	Newspaper/Daily Wildcat	Opinion piece on affirmative action at universities and how it unfairly favors students of color	That race shouldn't matter in college admissions	I guess I wasn't surprised. I've heard this a lot before, but I wish the writer understood more about US History!
Mon	Movie/Divergent	Race and ethnicity weren't a theme in this movie at all. There was no mention of it, but the majority of actors were white.	Race/ethnicity isn't an issue in the future, but people continue to divide into categories,	I wasn't surprised, but now that I think about it, why wouldn't race be an issue in the future? Why does most science fiction just make it

			and some are more powerful than others.	disappear?
Mon	Podcast/Gilmore Guys	In the episode I listened to, the hosts complain that Gilmore Girls doesn't have any major characters who are people of color, except for a Korean girl and her mom.	That race matters and that the representations we see of people of color matter to the way we think.	I was surprised by this because there is another character—Michel, who is black but French. I don't know why they would overlook this. What is their definition of person of color?

10 entries total...

(2) Reflection. Once you have completed your table, respond to the following questions with a thoughtful mini-analysis of at least 1 single-spaced page: What patterns do you see regarding representations of race/ethnicity in the media you consume on a daily basis? Do you mainly consume media with explicit or implicit messages about race/ethnicity? What did you discover about those messages that surprised you or that you hadn't thought about before? Where did you see or hear messages or representations of race or lack of it? Where did you see or hear messages or representations of the American Dream? How do you know? What are the recognizable elements?