

212 Final Paper - 2 options: Media Analysis or Cultural Perspectives

This paper is designed to demonstrate **mastery** (A level work). Students who elect not to write the paper demonstrate **competence** (B level work).

To be eligible to earn an A in the course you must write the final exam paper and earn at least 90%. If you're earning an A in the course you **must** write the paper or you will earn a B+ in the course. If you're happy with your grade and you're earning a D, C, or B you may skip the paper and keep your grade. Students who have a B+ or below can write the paper and earn a 90% can earn a final half letter grade of extra credit.

Pick one of these two final paper options:

Media Analysis Paper

Purpose:

- To apply theories regarding power, race, class or gender to popular media.
- To recognize how power, race, class or gender are represented in popular media.
- To criticize the implications of these representations.

Assignment:

1. This is an analysis of how power, race, class or gender are represented in the media and how those representations affect our views about certain groups in the U.S.
2. Choose a popular form of media (literature, music, movies, television programs, advertisements) and analyze its effects.
3. Determine how the group is being represented. Is it a stereotype or accurate?
4. Determine what the consequences of how the media represents that group's behaviors, values, culture, and actions? Does the *text* reinforce stereotypes? What do we learn about that group/person? What is reinforced? Will it change cultural perspectives about that group/person?

Paper guidelines:

- 3-4 pages
- Must be submitted through canvas as a PDF or Microsoft Word document
- Must be double spaced, 12 point font
- [APA Style](#) for citations (I'm not asking you to write the paper in APA style, just APA style for parenthetical and bibliographic citation) - 3 sources are required (attribution for each at least once), only one can be a website. Cite online article database sources as hard copies if you do not want it to count as a website. Our textbook counts as one source. The movie(s) don't count as sources. I'm looking for other sources than the course text to help explain the interpersonal theories.
- [Paper Organization](#)
- Grammar and punctuation count. So write carefully and proofread.
- [See paper rubric for grading details](#)

See below for final paper option #2

Cultural Perspectives Paper

Purpose:

Use your knowledge about:

- communication
- context
- culture
- power

to better understand a disenfranchised group in the U.S.

Assignment:

- 1) Your purpose is to identify a disenfranchised group in the U.S. and provide an account of their historical struggle, the current issues facing them, and the possible solutions to their social, cultural, and political struggle.
- 2) Identify one specific group (African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Americans, women, gays/lesbians, bisexuals, the poor) to research. The best direction to take would be to look at subgroups:
 - young Latina women
 - older African American men
 - uneducated young white southerners.

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