This paper is modeled on George Orwell’s “Boy’s Weeklies,” and other essays we’ve read that analyze examples from the media to make claims about American culture. This paper requires you to choose a series of “texts” from popular culture and to use close analysis of much specific, cited evidence to draw a conclusion about the identity of the audience(s) of those texts and the culture they inhabit. The word “text” is used for anything - a website, album, magazine, etc. - under analysis. I want you to “read” those things for the story they tell about our culture.

The essay should have four tiers:

Brief introduction: context of texts and how/why you chose them

A close analysis of the texts (this is your evidence)

A description of the audience for these texts

Broader conclusions about the culture of the audience

**Some Guidelines for a successful paper**

Texts should be examples of “popular” media. You may use tv series, magazines, songs/albums, reality tv, podcasts, romance novels, or anything else. You can use things in the same series, or compare totally different things. You can compare different types of texts that have different audiences to show how and why those two cultures are different, or anything else you can think of. You may want to show similarities, or contrast them. You can use things from the same place and time period, or totally different times and places. I encourage you to be very creative about the texts you use, and to choose something you are interested in! All I ask is for a convincing, logical explanation for why the particular texts were chosen.

A successful paper will also include:

* a (fairly brief) justification for why the texts can be used as indicators of the broader culture. (see Orwell p. 280).
* Very specific evidence, using **quotations** and **paraphrasing** with citations explaining what text they came from.
* Your own interpretations and descriptions (You can research audience responses/opinions about the text, but they should be used only as supporting evidence for YOUR ORIGINAL ANALYSIS that is based on evidence FROM YOUR TEXTS.)
* Several detailed conclusions about American culture or one larger conclusion with several components - illustrated with specific evidence from the texts. The thesis should not be simplistic.(i.e. “Americans are obsessed with violence/bling/celebrity/crime/etc.”)

5-6 pages

5 “text” minimum

Draft Due: 10/29 Final Draft Due: 11/3