

What is Popular Culture?

I. DEFINE: **Popular Culture**

II. What types of topics fall under the umbrella of popular culture? (LIST)

Popular culture is...

a. What is NOT pop culture?

i. _____

1. But when does it move into the pop culture realm?

ii. _____

1. But when does it move into the pop culture realm?

III. Now let's pull it all together in a good definition – what is popular culture?

Popular culture is...

Pop Culture Key Terms

I. Pop Culture Key Terms

a. **Popular:** (DEFINE) _____

i. Something that is made with the goal of being interesting to people.

b. **Culture:** (DEFINE) _____

i. It's the stuff that's all around us that we're constantly exposed to but often don't explicitly talk about.

ii. What are some of the things that have an influence on who you are or who you become?

iii. This year we're going to be talking about popular culture - about entertainment that is both POPULAR and which has CULTURE embedded into it.

1. EX 1: NWA's "F*** the Police"

a. What is the "culture" of "F*** the Police"? (What message is being sent about life in LA in the 1980s & '90s?)

2. EX 2: Modern Family

a. What is the "culture" of "Modern Family"? (What message is being sent about what families look/act like in the 21st century?)

Why study pop culture?

- I. VIDEO: According to the speaker, what is the value of popular culture? (Why does he think it's important we NOT dismiss pop culture and instead respect it, and preserve it.)

II.

Why is it worthwhile to study popular culture?	Real-life pop culture example
a. Helps build connections between people	
b. Has the power to influence people/society	
c. A way to get people talking about important issues/topics or challenge accepted norms.	
d. Americans' beliefs/values are shown in our popular culture.	
e. It is one way to study & understand history (themes of race, class, power and gender can all be seen in our pop culture.)	

- III. Why do some critics still today question the legitimacy of pop culture?