American Culture Shen

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### What is Popular Culture?

What do YOU do for fun? (LIST)

Much of what you do for fun IS pop culture!

**Popular Culture** is defined as "the arts, artifacts, entertainment, fads, beliefs and values that are shared by large segments of society."

But what does that REALLY MEAN? Let's figure it out...

LIST 5 examples of items, artifacts, entertainment, fads, etc that are examples of pop culture:

Give 2 examples of what is NOT pop culture:

### YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Pop Culture Collage

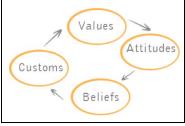
- I. Make a collage that represents your pop culture interests.
  - A. What elements of American popular culture do you CHOOSE to consume on a daily basis?
  - B. What aspects of American pop culture MEAN SOMETHING to you?
  - C. What pop culture do you ENJOY?
- II. Your collage can be a combination of pictures and words, both printed/cut out or drawn.

Name:

### Pop Culture Key Terms

# I. <u>Popular:</u> (DEFINE) \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Something that is made with the goal of being interesting to people.
- b. EXAMPLES?
- II. <u>Culture:</u> (DEFINE) \_\_\_\_\_



- a. YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Choose one group (club/team at LS, home, religious community, racial/ethnic group, social groupings, etc.)
  - i. How would you describe the customs/values/attitudes and beliefs within that group?
    - 1. Clothing:
    - 2. Way of speaking:
    - 3. Holidays/traditions:
    - 4. Foods:
    - 5. What's important/valued:
    - 6. Other things you notice about that group?
  - ii. All of these things together make up the CULTURE of that group. Get it?

- III. Let's put "popular" and "culture" together!
  - a. WATCH "Modern Family"
  - b. What does the episode say about what is "normal" for a family in the 2010s?

Norms for Men	Norms for Women	
Morals/Values	Sexual Orientation/Other	
<u>iviorais/ values</u>	<u>Sexual Offentation/Other</u>	

c. What does "Modern Family" say about what "normal" families look like in the 21st century?

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# Why Study Popular Culture? (Part I)

- I. Why study pop culture? (WATCH: Alexandre Philippe, TedX video)
  - a. He defines what pop culture is and is not.
    - i. What/who is NOT pop culture?
    - ii. What/who IS pop culture?
  - b. He says that politics, religion, social issues, cultural values and beliefs are important. On the other end of the spectrum is the "fluff" (pop culture) which goes viral which we typically dismiss as trivial/unimportant.
    - i. In the end, he says we should NOT dismiss pop culture as trivial or unimportant. WHY?

### Why Study Pop Culture: "Important" Topics vs the "Fluff"

Directions: We are going to look at a handful of current news stories. As we go through each story/headline, I want you to take notes on:

- 1. What words/pictures/topics jump out at you? Why?
- 2. How does this news story make you feel? How might other people feel reading/hearing about this topic?

	What words/pictures/topics jump out at you? Why?	How does this news story make you FEEL?
NEWS Slide 1		
NEWS Slide 2		
NEWS Slide 3		
NEWS Slide 4		
NEWS Slide 5		
POP CULTURE examples		

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## Why Study Popular Culture? (Part II)

II. Why study pop culture? (Provide a 2-3 examples of how pop culture is significant, relevant and worth discussion.)

Example #1:

Example #2:

Example #3:

I. Recap: Why IS it worthwhile to study popular culture? (LIST)