

Pop Culture Research Paper – Topic Ideas

If you are interested in...

<p><u>Music</u> Elvis Presley Frank Sinatra & the Rat Pack Joan Jett Folk music (Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, etc.) Protest music (Vietnam, civil rights, Black Lives Matter, etc.) Music and drugs, mental health, etc. The Beatles James Brown and soul/funk Michael Jackson and/or the Jackson 5 Freddie Mercury & Queen Tracy Chapman & social consciousness Motown Records 27 Club (musicians' influence, cultural impact, etc.) Civil rights & rock 'n' roll Disco (music, dance, culture) LA riots in song (NWA, Dr. Dre, etc.) Hip hop (pioneers, East v. West coast rap wars, etc.) Bruce Springsteen Grunge music, culture (Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, etc.) Jimi Hendrix Music festivals (Altamont, Woodstock, Monterey Pop, Newport Folk, Lollapalooza, Coachella) Punk music & culture (The Ramones, Green Day, etc.) Madonna & reinvention Jazz (L. Armstrong, E. Fitzgerald, etc.) MTV Beyonce (Beychella, Beyhive, Lemonade, cultural impact, etc.) Kanye (music, business, cultural influence) Grateful Dead (music distribution, culture, fan base, etc.)</p>	<p><u>Movies</u> <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> and atomic culture Indie films/culture <i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i> & American commercialism James Bond & spy culture Atomic scare films <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> (disco culture) Marx Brothers Sherlock Holmes (detective stories in print, media, film, etc.) Spike Lee & film War in film (WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.) Space/sci-fi obsession (<i>I Married a Monster from Outerspace</i>, Roswell) Hitchcock thrillers <i>Wizard of Oz</i> (1930s) <i>Streetcar Named Desire</i> ('50s sexual repression) <i>Shaft</i> or Blaxploitation films (changing racial perception) <i>Easy Rider</i> ('60s youth) <i>Gone with the Wind</i> <i>2001: Space Odyssey</i> (1968) '80s teen movies (<i>Breakfast Club</i>, <i>Sixteen Candles</i>, <i>Pretty in Pink</i>, etc.) <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i>, James Dean D.W. Griffith's <i>Birth of a Nation</i> John Ford westerns <i>Wall Street</i> and the culture of excess Marvel films (making of, franchise, representation of comics on screen, influence, etc.) Teen culture in films</p>
<p><u>Print & Digital Media</u> Judy Blume novels tackle controversial pre-teen topics Magazines (<i>Life</i>, <i>Ms.</i>, <i>Mad Magazine</i>) Beatnik writers (Kerouac, Ginsberg, etc.) Barbara Walters <u>The Crucible</u> (Cold War hysteria) <u>Man in the Grey Flannel Suit</u> (Advertising and 1950s life) <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u> (race, legal system) <u>Lord of the Flies</u> (1954) Racism in literature (Anne Moody, Ralph Ellison, Wright) <u>Dick and Jane</u> books and suburban culture Tabloidization of news coverage (paparazzi, TMZ, etc.) Podcasting as storytelling, access, etc. Social media (development, influence, access, entertainment, celeb use of, group organization, regulation, etc.) The impact of technology (cell phones, internet, social media on body image, interaction, society, culture, privacy, etc.)</p>	<p><u>Art / Comics</u> Comic books as a representation of... (Cold War fears, teen life, civil rights turmoil, gender/sexual changes, etc.) Wonder Woman & the evolution of women in comics Political cartooning (choose a decade/event) <i>Dr. Seuss</i> as a political/social commentator Art in the age of Instagram Pop Art (Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock, etc.) Diego Rivera Jacob Lawrence John Muir (photography) Norman Rockwell & <i>The Saturday Evening Post</i> Rube Goldberg cartoons Graffiti art (Jean-Michel Basquiat, etc.) <i>Blondie</i> or <i>Archie</i> comics</p>

