

Influential TV Shows Project

Our central question for this unit and this project is:

What can we learn about Americans, their values & culture through popular tv show?

You are each going to research ONE of the influential tv shows below.

- The Cosby Show
- The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
- Oprah
- Carol Burnett
- South Park
- Family Guy
- The Simpsons
- Twilight Zone
- Star Trek
- Sesame Street
- Survivor
- Hill Street Blues
- MTV
- The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson
- Will & Grace
- Ellen

STEP 1: FIND SOURCES, RESEARCH & TAKE NOTES

1. Details about the production/behind the scenes of the show: (network, years it was on the air, important cast members (lead actors))
2. What was the plot of the show? (storyline, relationships between characters, etc.)
3. Where does the show supposedly take place?
4. Who was the show written for? Who did the network want to watch the show? (audience)
5. What did Americans think about the show when it was on the air? How do we know that?
6. Was this show like any other shows at the time or was it different in some way? Explain.
7. What made this show influential/important? Consider what made it unique.
8. What was going on in America historically/culturally at the time the show was on the air? How did the show connect to or show that?
9. What can we learn about America, it's values and culture through this tv show?
10. Are there any shows like this still on the air? If so, what shows?

STEP 2: WATCH THE SHOW

- Watch one full episode of the show (let me know if you have trouble accessing an episode on YouTube, Netflix, Hulu, tv.com, or other online sources.)
- Answer the questions on the "TV Show Review" handout.

STEP 3: CREATE A GOOGLE SLIDES PRESENTATION FOR THE CLASS

- Using your notes, fill out the "TV Shows Outline" -> Show your outline to Ms. Shen & get feedback.
- Start a Google Slideshow (SHARE IT WITH MS. SHEN)

Dates to keep in mind	
Block 1	Block 6
<p>Tuesday, Nov. 19-Friday, Nov. 22 – Library research days</p> <p>Monday, Nov. 25 – In class-work day & notes check at the beginning of class (10 points)</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 26 & Tuesday, Dec. 3 - In-class-work days & outline check (10 points)</p> <p>Thursday, Dec. 5 - Finished slideshows due (50 points)</p>	<p>Tuesday, Nov. 19-Friday, Nov. 22 – Library research days</p> <p>Monday, Nov. 25 – In class-work day & notes check at the beginning of class (10 points)</p> <p>Tuesday, Dec. 3 & Thurs., Dec. 5 - In-class-work day & outline check (10 points)</p> <p>Friday, Dec. 6 - Finished slideshows due (50 points)</p>

For this project, you MUST use at least 3 sources. Good resources for this project include Pop Culture Universe, U.S. History in Context, TV.com, Entertainment Weekly, etc.. (All these sites are linked in Google Classroom.) Let me be clear, you SHOULD NOT be using Wikipedia as a source!

[How do I access the LS library databases? To access the school’s database, Google “LS library.” Open the link and then look for the History databases on the right side of the page.]

Your slideshow should be interesting and engaging. I’ll be grading you both on how it looks AND the information it includes. Engage us and do what you can to make your presentation fun. Your slideshow should also include a bibliography.

A few tips for your slideshow:

- **Font:** should be readable, a minimum of 16+ point font for notes, and be sure to choose a color that we can read (lighter colors and highlighter colors are hard to read)
- **Color/images:** you’re making a VISUAL presentation, so it should have VISUAL APPEAL. Think about what it’s like to sit on the other side of this reading/watching it. All slides should have at least one picture/video or a visual background. (An all text, black text over white background slideshow will put us to sleep - DON’T DO IT!)
- **Videos:** you’re doing a presentation on a tv show so be sure to integrate clips from that tv show to support/show what you’re talking about