

# Perceptions & Reality: Sports, Entertainment & Technology

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ENG 103

Dr. Alison Witte

## REALITY & POPULAR MEDIA

As citizens in a highly connected world, we get so much of our information about the world and how the world works from television, movies, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and many other mediated sources. But have you ever noticed that the same event or idea can be depicted in many ways?

Think about, for example, the ways students are depicted. Sometimes students are depicted as lazy or entitled, other times as clueless, and other times as various stereotypes—nerds, jocks, trouble-makers, popular girls, etc. Now think about yourself as a student. Do these depictions accurately represent you or your friends? Why or why not?

From this simple example, we can see how “reality” can be controlled and manipulated by the images, words, and sounds we connect to it. Thus, how we think of particular people, places, ideas, etc. can be shaped by the messages in the world around us. People who don’t have much experience with students could easily believe that any of the depictions listed above are accurate and actually have an inaccurate and potentially harmful view of students.

This assignment asks you to choose a topic of interest to you and look at the depictions of the topic in popular media and determine how accurate those depictions are and how those depictions leave out, overlook important parts of, or misrepresent a particular topic.

## ASSIGNMENT

In this 3-4 page project, you’ll choose a topic and demonstrate how it’s depicted in popular media (films, television, music, art, magazines, social media, etc.) AND expand the depiction of your topic showing how the popular depiction is inaccurate or incomplete based on your experiences and your research. Essentially, you need to show what the popular depiction leaves out, overlooks, or misrepresents.

This project will require library research and citation of at least 4 academic sources.

## STARTING POINTS

- What images do you see when you think about?

Athletes	City Life	Communication
Students	Rural Life	Women
Nerds	College	Men
Gamers	Fame	Families
Musicians	Religion	Work
Actors	Success	Politics

- Where do your ideas come from?
- What might other people think about when they think about this topic? Why?
- Where do the differences come from?
- What would you like other people to see, know, or understand when it comes to your topic?

**FORMAT**

Your Perceptions & Reality: Sports, Entertainment & Technology should follow standard writing conventions and the following format:

- You will need to give your project an interesting and relevant title.
- Your paper needs to have a heading in MLA style
- Your paper needs to have a header in MLA style
- Your paper should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and 11 or 12 point font. Please use standard fonts such as Calibri or Times New Roman.
- You need to cite your sources in MLA style and include an MLA style Works Cited page.
  - THE WORKS CITED PAGE DOES NOT COUNT IN THE PAGE REQUIREMENT.

	Last Name Page #
Your Name	
Professor's Name	
Class Name	
Day Month Year	
Title	
Paper, paper, paper, paper.....	

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Wednesday, 11/9 Complete draft for Workshop
- Friday, 11/18 Final draft due for Grading (Moodle)
- Revisions are due no later than 2 weeks from the day your grades are returned (EMAIL ONLY)

## ASSESSMENT

The rubric below will be used to assess your project when it is submitted for grading.

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
An A Project (135-150 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology both visually and textually</li> <li>Clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic</li> <li>Supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic</li> <li>Uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing</li> <li>Uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow</li> <li>Uses image choice, placement, size and color to make a clear argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites sources in MLA</li> <li>Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page</li> <li>Is relatively free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors</li> <li>Images are of good quality and easy to see, read and identify</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> </ul>
A B Project (120-134.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology with a few spots where the topic is unclear</li> <li>Mostly clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with a few spots that are unclear or need more information</li> <li>Supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with a few spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, but the thesis could be clearer in a few spots</li> <li>Usually uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but has a few spots where the integration is awkward</li> <li>Usually uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow, but has a few spots where more direction is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites sources in MLA with only a few minor errors</li> <li>Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with only a few minor errors</li> <li>Is generally free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> </ul>
A C Project (105-119.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology with some spots where the topic is unclear</li> <li>Generally clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with some spots that are unclear or need more information</li> <li>Generally supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with some spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented but doesn't make a clear claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, OR the rest of the paper does not always support that claim</li> <li>Generally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout</li> <li>Is somewhat easy to follow, but has many spots where transitions or directions to the reader could be more direct, or spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites at least 3 of 4 sources in MLA with a some minor and a few major errors</li> <li>Includes a mostly correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with some minor errors and no more than 1 major errors</li> <li>Has some minor grammar and spelling errors and a few major errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> </ul>

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
A D Project (90-104.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat clearly identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology with many spots where the topic is unclear</li> <li>• Somewhat clearly makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with many spots that are unclear or need more information</li> <li>• Somewhat supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with many spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented but doesn't make a claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic, OR the rest of the paper does not support that claim</li> <li>• Minimally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout</li> <li>• Is not easy to follow, and has several spots where transitions or directions to the reader are needed, and/or some spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many minor and a few major errors</li> <li>• Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with many minor and some major omissions or errors</li> <li>• Has several minor and some major grammar and spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not meet the length requirement</li> <li>• Does not include at least 4 academic sources</li> </ul>
An F Project (Less than 90 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimally or never identifies a topic related to sports, entertainment, or technology with numerous spots where the topic is unclear</li> <li>• Minimally or never makes an argument about how the topic is represented and about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic with numerous spots that are unclear or need more information</li> <li>• Minimally or never supports textual claims with appropriate data/information from sources with numerous spots where more is needed or the data/information is not appropriate for the claim being made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has no clear thesis statement that identifies how the topic is represented and doesn't make a claim about what needs to be added or changed to make the representation more accurate/realistic</li> <li>• Rarely or never uses signal phrases to incorporate cited material</li> <li>• Is not easy to follow because it is missing transitions or directions to the reader OR Is not easy to follow because it has too many spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section is unclear as a part of the whole project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many major errors</li> <li>• Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with major omissions or errors OR includes no Works Cited page</li> <li>• Has many minor and several major grammar and spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not meet the length requirement</li> <li>• Does not include at least 4 citations from academic sources</li> </ul>