

6. Description of “Popular Culture Artifact” Exercise

For this exercise, I ask students to bring to class an “artifact” that they think typifies or exemplifies popular culture’s ideas about democracy. This artifact can be a scene from a movie, video, or television show, a piece of popular music, an advertisement, web site, newspaper or magazine article or photograph, in fact just about anything a student would deem to come from popular culture expressing a view about “democracy”. I ask students to be prepared to present their popular culture artifact in class, taking no more than three minutes each. In addition to presenting in class, I ask them to write up in their Democracy Theory Journal/Thoughtbook their choice of artifact and the reasoning behind why they chose to present what they did.