

Local Folk and Popular Culture Reports (200 points; 20 minute podcast)

Due Dates:

- Local Folk and Popular Culture Report Due March 13
- Share Podcast Selections with class: May 6

Topic and Content:

Imagine your group is reporting for a public radio station. Your team's assignment is to inform your listeners about local popular and folk cultures. Local refers to a culture found in the Stockton or your hometown community area. For example, you might report about a local popular music scene in Atlantic City or a local folk festival. If you are not from the area, you might report about a folk or popular culture from your local area. For example, I grew up in a Wisconsin community where they celebrate Syttende Mai, the Norwegian Independence Day. My group might compose our local folk culture report on the celebration or some specific aspect of the celebration that occurs in Westby, Wisconsin. Or, we could select a more unusual topic and explain how the gym we belong to has its own folk culture.

In your report, your group needs to clarify what makes this report **local**. A report on "rap music" or "Italian American food" might fit the basic definitions of a popular and folk culture respectively, but these topics are not "local." What is the local rap scene? How about discussing a local ethnic food festival?

The report also needs to reference a **researched definition of popular and folk culture**. (Your group may use the definitions used in the class or others the group finds in scholarly sources.) Your group report needs to explain how the topics fit into the categories of popular or folk cultures. Are there any aspects that blur these boundaries?

Each report should include the following:

1. **A scholarly definition of popular/folk culture.** You may also wish to include interviews with people who participate in this culture or other kinds of outside research to establish your knowledge of this culture.
2. **Explanation/Clarification of what makes your topic local.**
3. **Explanation of how your local topic fits the scholarly definition.**
4. **Explanation/Description the major aspects of your topic:**
 - a. **Who participates in or comprises this culture?** How do they join? Can anyone join in? What is the membership criterion?
 - b. **What is it?** Keep in mind that you probably will not be able to describe every aspect of any culture. What can you focus on to give your readers the best sense of this culture? Does it have a unique language? Food? Habits? Art?
 - c. **Where does it happen/appear?** This will help you establish what makes your report local. This culture may also happen elsewhere. Does that make a difference? If you are an acknowledged local member of this culture, can you easily go elsewhere and fit into the culture? Why or why not?
 - d. **When does it happen/appear?** Is this a night or day culture? Something associated with a particular time of year? Does time of day or year matter?
 - e. **Why is it important/interesting/unusual?** This question should also help you clarify what makes this a report on a local culture. Additionally, you need to clarify what makes this culture distinct from other cultures.
5. **Transcript:** A typed version of what is included on the podcast.
6. **List of Each Group Members' Contributions to the Project:** The group may work on all of the activities together or divide some of the jobs into individual work. The group should decide as a whole on the two topics: a local popular and a local folk culture. However, the collection of materials, their editing into the podcast, and the preparation of the transcript may be divided into individual responsibilities.
7. **Bibliography in MLA format.**

GAH 2256
Dr. J

Before passing in the podcast and transcript I encourage you to drop by my office hours to chat about your group's topics, look over your organization, etc. **No revisions will be allowed.** Put your very best effort into the final podcast.