

MEDIA GAP REFLECTION

Assignment Description

Our starting point this semester has been to learn about the stereotypical representations of Latina/os in mainstream media. This assignment invites you to reflect on your own television- and film-viewing history and connect it to what you have learned from our initial course texts: Ramirez Berg's chapter, "A Crash Course on Hollywood's Latino Imagery"; the documentary film *The Bronze Screen*; and Negron-Muntaner's "The Latino Media Gap" report (link on [our course website](#); focus in particular on pages 6-19).

Think back on your favorite films and television shows. Then write an essay in which you respond to the following question: **Does your experience as a viewer conform to the arguments presented by our course texts? Why or why not?**

Consider the following questions to help you get started:

- Can you recall any Latina/o characters in your favorite films and shows? If so, what role did they play in the story? Would you say they were portrayed positively or negatively? Do they fit any of the common stereotypes our readings have identified? Describe and analyze those portrayals in light of our course texts.
- If you cannot recall Latina/o characters, how do you explain such lack of representation? Were you at all aware of this lack before taking this course? Why or why not? Think about a favorite film: If one of the major characters had been Latina/o, would it have had any impact on the story? If so, then why, and if not, then why not?

There are no right or wrong answers in this essay. However, in your reflection, you must strengthen your observations by drawing upon the insights you have gained from our course texts and discussions. Grading will be based on the following: (1) depth and quality of your reflection; (2) engagement with course discussions and readings; and (3) strength of your writing (i.e. style and grammar).

Technical Guidelines

- Due date: Monday, September 14
- 4 pages in length (a minimum of 1000 words)
- 15% of overall grade
- Your work must be
 - Formatted with 1" margins all around
 - Double-spaced
 - Printed in 12-point Times New Roman
 - Numbered on all pages
 - Stapled before you turn it in
 - Spell-checked, carefully edited and proof-read
 - Follow MLA formatting (for guidelines, see link to Purdue's Online Writing Lab on our course website)