

Star-Gazing Assignment

You will be introducing a famous person from the 1950s to our class. You will get a chance (3 minutes) to explain who your person was, and how (s)he was represented.

1. Choose a prominent public figure from the 1950s from the list on the class forum on LEA. Every student has a different topic. We will do Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and Elvis together.

2. **Do a Google image search** for your person and record your first impression of how (s)he was represented.

3. Do some general research about the person you have chosen. Use a source other than Wikipedia. Keep track of your sources so you can cite them.

4. Now refine your search to find images (photos or other kinds of pictures) that were made of your person **during the 1950s**. For people who had short careers (like James Dean who died in 1955 at the age of 24) this will be easy. For those who had long careers (like John Wayne) this will require more attention. Aim for at least ten images, but even more images can make it easier to see patterns in how (s)he was represented.

5. Now **develop a thesis** about how your person was represented, just as Richard Meyer does in his article on Rock Hudson. Make a claim about how these images show what this person meant in the culture of the 1950s. Is your person usually presented in the same way? How are the meanings attached to this person in 1950s culture conveyed visually? Write 500 words about this. Cite your sources.

Things to Remember:

Cite your sources. All information which you get from any source must be properly cited. Do this when you put information in your own words and when you quote.

Include an MLA style bibliography. In this you will give the sources of the image you are discussing and any other source material you used for biographical or background information.

Papers should be proof-read before they are submitted.