

**Introduction:**

The purpose of this assignment is to help you understand your own cultural rules and biases, as well as conduct research and critically analyze media that will help shape your responses to cultural biases.

You will engage with the musical *Hamilton*. The show details the life of Alexander Hamilton but also provides an avenue for viewers to critically self-reflect on current American cultural practices. This activity will challenge you to critically analyze a piece of popular culture, conduct research, and understand new aspects of American culture.

Analysis of one song/scene from *Hamilton*:

Brief summary of the song, where song is in play, structure of the song, important quotes from song, etc.

Primary source that inspired that song: Find a diary entry, newspaper entry, historical document that would have inspired or been relevant to the song. Discuss the historical time period of the song.



Compare and contrast the historical influence of the song to any current historical moments.

Rhetorical situation of the song/scene you have chosen:

You will need to conduct some basic research to answer some of these questions.

Reader [Who is the target audience]

Evaluation



Author [Author of the play]

Limitations

Motivation



Conclusions:



In summary, what does *Hamilton* say about contemporary society? What does the song you analyzed say and how does it fit into the larger narrative of *Hamilton*?

Debrief with the following questions:

- What did you originally believe the musical *Hamilton* was about? After your viewing and conducting research what new conclusions have you come to?
- What is your own understanding of American culture? What are the pros and cons of American culture?
- What cultural biases of American culture did you have before viewing *Hamilton*? Have any of these changed and if so, how and why?
- As an American, what does this play mean to you? If you are not American, how did you engage with this play?
- What did you find the play saying about contemporary society?