

ANTHROPOLOGY PROJECT

REPRESENTATIONS OF "THE OTHER"

The purpose of this assignment is to find and evaluate representations of other cultures and of cultural differences in the popular press, commercial art, and television. By "the Other," I mean any identifiable group (including your own) that is stereotyped, caricatured, or otherwise generalized about in public representations. You may find these representations, for example, in newspaper cartoons, internet sites, magazine articles, advertisements for jeans, music, or automobiles, on MTV, in *The Enquirer*, or in serious articles in *The New York Times*. They may be in print or electronic media, as visual images or text.

What to Do:

1. Find at least five examples of "representation" of a group or of cultural differences. If possible, photocopy them to hand in with your analysis. If they are from the internet, simply copy/paste. If you cannot photocopy them (for example, if they are MTV spots, films, or occur in live performances), describe them in a paragraph or two. If possible, choose examples that follow a similar theme or that describe the same people. Be sure to note the source and context of the representation (for example, "editorial page of *The New York Times*," "cover story of *The Enquirer*," and so forth).
2. Reflect on the kinds of images offered. Ask yourself why this particular representation shows up in this particular context. Who is doing the representing? How are the cultural differences being portrayed? What do you think the purpose of the representation is? Comment on the representations in a two-three page analytic paper (not including your examples).

Turn in the copies or descriptions of the five representations, along with your comments.