

Show and Tell Assignment

Science and Popular Culture

Fall 2015

The purpose of this assignment is to be able to recognize the themes and tropes discussed in class, identify examples, and critically analyze those examples. This assignment should also help you develop your oral presentation and teamwork skills.

1. You may work on this project with a partner, and in fact, I encourage you to do so.
2. Bring an example of some pop culture text or media object to class that fits the daily theme. Make sure that you exhibit some element of this text in your presentation, e.g., if it is a written work, read a quotation or make a hand-out; if it is an artwork, display a digital slide; if it is an audio or video work, play a clip. (If you need to use the projector or audio system in the room, please send your files to the Professor at least 24 hours ahead of time.)
3. Your presentation should briefly provide a critical analysis of the text in question, focusing in on one key issue related to the day's theme.
4. Some questions you might ask in the course of your analysis: What does this representation tell us about how the author understands and values science or scientists? What does it tell us about the audience? How does this text tell us about how we as a society *value* science? What hopes or ideals for science does it represent? In what ways is the portrayal of science problematic? E.g., from a political, ethical, or socio-historical point of view?
5. Your presentation should be between 5-8 minutes long (no shorter or longer). We will take at least two minutes for Q&A at the end of your presentation.