

You Choose

Cultural Universals are characteristics of a culture that are shared by most cultures. There are three categories of Cultural Universals – they are Social, Political, and Economic.

Please refer to the assignment page lesson 4.05 to get a description of what type of activities are included in each. If you are confused in any way, be sure to call your editor!

Once you feel comfortable with the universals, use the chart below to list three activities from your own life in each category – that will be a total of 9 activities. We've given you some examples.

Social	Political	Economic
Courtship, marriage, and marriage rules	Political organization	Trade
Family Organization	Laws	Property Rights
Meetings at weekends	Curfew	Heredity
Family meals	Norms of behaving	Property rights
Playing basketball	Community rules	Trade

Now for the fun part! Think about a CD or a magazine that you like. From that CD or magazine, pick a song or an article. Your job as a reporter is to evaluate your choice using the universals. As you are reading, or listening, think about the activities/characteristics mentioned and how you would categorize them as either Social, Political, or Economic. You may use the chart below to keep track of the universals you encounter. Be sure to include a minimum of three in each category for a total of 9.

Social	Political	Economic
Club dancing	Discrimination in society	Credit card
Rock performances	Law-breaking	Trade
Drug use	Superstitions	Money greediness

Once you have finished, tell us about the song or article, why did you choose it? Where can we find it? What cultural universals were present there? Did you see any overlap between your song/article and the universals you listed in the first chart?

- The song is "Rockstar" by Nickelback and it is one of my favorite songs. I chose this song because it focuses on today's society and the aspirations of people in it. All three cultural universal categories were present in the song. There was an overlap but there were a lot of differences as well because the lifestyle described in the song is very different than mine. You can find the song at:
- <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/nickelback/rockstar.html>

Finally, rewrite the article/song to include an alternate ending that reflects one of your universals that wasn't present in the song/article to begin with. Submit this work file in 4.05 assessment for credit.

- (last stanza)
And we'll dribble out in the late hours of night
With the latest shoes and today's who's who
They'll nail it in the net with that vicious shot
Everybody's got a cross like Kobe Bryant

Hey hey I wanna be a basketball star
Hey hey I wanna be a basketball star