

Are you studying HSC Society & Culture?

Did you know that we have a collection of the award winning HSC Personal Interest projects (PIPs)?

This set of the 2016 PIPs are made available from the State Library of NSW.

These examples will give you ideas for:

- * Interview, questionnaire, survey techniques and examples
- * Referencing techniques
- * Sources of information
- * Arrangement of information and detail required for assignment
- * Topics
- * Research methods
- * Language and perspective



As well, PIP authors have shared their own personal insights with regard to the process and the product.

Please note that PIPs cannot be photocopied and are kept at Port Macquarie Library. If you would like to look at these amazing projects, please come in to Port Macquarie Library or contact Virginia virginia.cox@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Below are the titles of each of the examples we have and a very brief extract.

Thank you very much to the students who have very kindly shared their amazing PIPs

In Gov. We Trust – How has Australia’s trust in Government been impacted through changing forms of communication technologies and the explosion of the information age?

“This investigation has allowed me to develop an insightful understanding of the triangulated interrelationship between media, politics and the public, and their evolution over time. As I became more informed I became aware of not only the government’s use of media, but my own. To a lesser extent, it has also revealed the trends of social media usage by examining trends through lens of the information age. Whilst revealing such trends, it has also allowed me to become more socially and culturally literate through immersing myself in and investigating my micro, meso and macro world’s interaction with technology and its implications for the future.”

Survival in the Digital Eco-System – An inquiry into identity, and authenticity of the Self in the digital age

“My reason for choosing this subject matter are twofold, foremost is its very heavy bearing on the micro, meso and macro levels of societal continuity and change as well as its contemporary and epoch-making nature.

Secondly, I chose it to quench my inquisitorial thirst for a subject that has fascinated me immensely, due to my understanding of self, and my environment. I therefore believe that my Personal Interest Project will be to the betterment of an understanding and appreciation of the nuances of Society and Culture, especially in terms of the sociological implications of life in the digital ecosystem, and most pertinently, entanglement in the ever intrincating web of social media.”

It’s Not Just Black and White: Changing Indigenous Australian representation in the media – A investigation into the changing portrayal and perceptions of Indigenous people and culture within the print media

“This PIP was inspired by an interest in the prolonged marginalisation of Australia’s first inhabitants since Colonisation, and particularly in the reasons for the perpetuation of racist Indigenous stereotypes in modernity.”

“Following the completion of the PIP, I have learnt much as a researcher about the importance of practicing social and cultural literacy to achieve valid and ethical data. Exploration of the topic revealed the symbiotic relationship between print media and societal attitudes, and thus the power of positive portrayals in combating stereotypes hegemonic portrayals and underlying racist attitudes through socialisation. This investigation highlighted, and in some instances challenged, my own social constructions and worldviews which were shaped largely by micro world interactions. The report has helped me to become judicial and discerning in micro, meso and macro interactions, in order to promote change for a more racially equal and cohesive society.”

Stand. Speak. Type. Act – An investigation into the social and cultural value of social activism over time as an institutional marker of social change.

“To create greater depth to my PIP, as a millennial, I have chosen to explore a generational cross cultural perspective in the hope of assessing how social activism has become increasingly complex, namely at the hands of modernisation and globalisation. As a focus of my secondary research, I have been able to gain an appreciation of the contextual, generational and socialisation influences that ultimately sees the cultural continuity of social activism as a vehicle for social justice. My cross-generational comparison has exposed the contextual means of this social justice to have changed due to modernisation and globalisation.”

Say It Loud, Say It Clear, Protesters Always Welcome Here – An investigation into the changing nature of protesting through the rise of virtual activism

“This PIP has been one of the most demanding, yet rewarding tasks, which has challenged my understanding of the role I play in society. It has allowed me to speculate about the future possibilities of people power and the role social media will continue to play in our day to day lives. Overall, the research process has been effective, however better time management and organisational skills would greatly improve this research.”

One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest – A study on television’s negative portrayal of mental illness and its impact upon social attitudes

“I found the lengthy process of research, while arduous at times, greatly rewarding upon the completion of this PIP. At a micro level, this investigation has consolidated my prior beliefs of the inaccuracies of both television portrayals and the general public approach to mental illness.”

It Does Not Matter How Slowly Feminism Goes As Long As It Does Not Stop – An investigation into feminism in Australia and Korea with cross-cultural comparison of the cultural values that either support or challenge the movement

“This project relates to the Society and Culture course as it investigates feminism as an ideology, which aims to overcome the social exclusion women experience in both Australia and Korea. Moreover, the cross-cultural comparison examines the change and continuity of the cultural norms, beliefs and values that construct the self and national identity of both nations. Therefore, the cultural differences between Australia and Korea can lead to varied attitudes towards feminist movements and thus the extent of the power of feminism in making changes to the societal systems are norms are different.”

You Have The Right To Remain Polarised – An investigation into the polarisation of masculinity and femininity in crime shows, and how this encultures a narrow view of gender identity

“This PIP examines gender as a cross-cultural study, focussing on the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of female detectives in crime shows. This topic relates to the Society and Culture course as it explores how the social construct of gender has continued to be stereotyped within the macro sphere, accentuating the binary between males and females. Furthermore, this topic will examine how gender identities are socialised, perpetuating gender hierarchies as demonstrated by the value of hegemonic masculinity in the micro and meso spheres at home and work.”

The Political A-Gender – An investigation into new forms of masculinity in Australian politics and how patriarchal structures in the government continue to subordinate women

“As a result of conducting this Personal Interest Project, I have gained a heightened awareness of gender politics and understand the gender dynamics that are occurring in the macro sphere. Through primary research, I have learnt to research ethically and efficiently, and through secondary research, I have become aware of the diversification masculinity has undergone, the increasing representation of women in politics, and the marginalisation received for demonstrating feminine identities. Consequently, my interests in politics has increased, particularly in areas of representation and the marginalisation of minority groups in the macro sphere, and media’s portrayal of these groups to society.”

An Investigation into the Impact of Western Education on an Indigenous Australian’s Development of Self Efficacy and Its Direct Relation To Perceptions and Attainment of Cultural Group Success

“Recognition of cultural difference, and the impact of this difference is the first step to identifying real solutions. This paper seeks to enlighten society on the formation of their self-concept and influence of this on others.

With a substantial number of resources, collating of both primary and secondary data occurred, physically arranging sources that could be compared and contrasted under broad headings of self-efficacy, success and education. This led to my analysis and synthesis, forming the report, which I present in hope of society becoming aware of imposed cultural expectations and moving forward considering correct engagement of Aboriginal; one in which their cultural heritage is valued.”

The Rage For Raunch – An investigation into the encultured values of hypersexualised music videos and the relationship between sexual discrimination and objectification in western youth culture

“This topic relates to the Society and Culture HSC course as it investigates persons of the pop genre through time gauge how the hyper sexualisation of both genders has transformed as media develops. It is also

investigates the socialisation process of young persons throughout the western culture. The media as a macro level institution has proliferated a norm for sexual objectification. This is promoting the discrimination of women as a justifiable occurrence, changing how they view persons of differing genders."

The F-Word – An investigation into the homicide of the 'Modern Feminist'

*"I have grown up surrounded by strong-minded women in a household ostensibly free of gender bias, thus once entering the world of social media, I was baffled by my generation's fight for Feminism, or lack thereof. The value of equality, which I resumed was the manifesto of the movement, had become internalised with misogyny, manipulated for the use of misandry, synonymous with female supremacy and ultimately 'unappealing' and 'unattractive'. My Personal Interest Project therefore attempts to analyse the extent of the media's influence in creating this change and examine the growth in the social movement of anti-feminism spawn from the distorted image of contemporary gender equality.....My research of the changing ideology has commenced a long journey that has truly expanded my conception of equality and the importance of being open-minded, opposed to the monolithic stereotype of an 'aggressive close-minded b*tch which so frequently plagues the modern day feminist, perverting this movement made for women into one that women fear; the F word."*

