

# Culture Through Everyday Objects

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

*When using resources from TRAILS, please include a clear and legible citation*

Wilkins, Keith. 2018. "Culture Through Everyday Objects". *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*, January. Washington DC: American Sociological Association.  
<https://trails.asanet.org/article/view/culture-through-everyday-objects>.

## Abstract

Culture Through Everyday Objects is a PowerPoint lecture adaptation of Stephanie Medley-Rath's class activity "Objects From Everyday Life: A Can of Coca-Cola." This lecture integrates Medley-Rath's class activity into a broader conversation about culture, and aligns with educational research regarding experiential learning. It first introduces an activity/experience, and then maps onto that experience technical information. It also incorporates a unique assignment which tasks students with using their sociological imaginations to both relate sociological concepts to the context of their own lives, and envision life in which a real, or unreal technology transforms an element of material, or non-material culture. Lecture/Usage notes are provided.

## Details

**Subject Areas:** Introduction to Sociology/Social Problems

**Resource Types:** Lecture

**Class Levels:** College 100

**Class Sizes:** Small

## Usage Notes

This resource utilizes a free online sociology textbook, OpenStax.org, to guide students in their exploration of culture in sociology. This lecture can easily be adapted to incorporate other textbook sources, or teaching formats.

## Learning Goals and Assessments

### LEARNING GOALS

Students will develop their sociological imaginations by understanding culture through an analysis of an everyday social artifact.

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Students will understand components of culture, and theoretical frameworks for studying it.

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### ASSESSMENTS

Creative writing assignment

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Discussion questions throughout lecture/class activity

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## Resource Files

PPTX

DOCX