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Class: 8M **Date:** 9/30/13
Saint of the Day: St. Jerome

***Worth 15 points**

INSTRUCTIONS: Each month (September – March, with the exception of December) you are required to undertake a Christian examination of something from popular culture (examples listed below). Your goal is to highlight the deeper messages (good or bad) within the element from pop culture you chose and figure out what kind of action a trying-to-be-a-saint Christian should take.

***Important Note:** This does **NOT** give you free license to do anything your parents would not normally want you doing (Examples: watching bad TV shows, buying bad magazines/songs/music videos, etc.). For this assignment you should not have to go looking in deep and dark places. Rather, just keep your eyes and ears open as you go about your daily life.

A. Element from Pop Culture (1 pt.)

Did you choose an Advertisement? Book? Celebrity? Fashion trend? Magazine? Movie? Music video? News story? Phone app? Internet site/story/picture/video/trend? Video game? OTHER?

I chose Miley Cyrus's new image.

B. Element Specifics (1 pt.)

Give the specifics of the element of pop culture that you chose.

**Example answer: I chose the song and music video "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus. This song is currently the #1 song and #2 music video in the world according to iTunes.*

Miley currently has 2 songs that are top 20 on iTunes. (Wrecking Ball-#3 and We Can't Stop-#16) She also has 2 very... let's say revealing, music videos that are also on the top 20. (Wrecking Ball-#2 and We Can't Stop-#14) First of all, her real name is Destiny Hope Cyrus. She was named that because it was her destiny to bring hope into the world, definitely not... She has legally changed her name to Miley. She has portrayed herself as a thing and not a person and that's how people treat her. She used to be really pretty and had beautiful hair and was a good person. Then she went downhill. It started with Party in the USA. The song wasn't TERRIBLE, but in the music video, she wore revealing clothes and wasn't very classy. No one really talked about her much for about a year-ish. I think she wanted more attention because she was scared that people were forgetting about her. She cut her beautiful brown hair and bleached it. It now looks very unnatural. Then she came out with her song We Can't Stop. There were some bad lyrics in the song like "To my homegirls here with the bug butts." That is saying that having a bigger behind is better and that you can only get a husband if your body is "pretty." Then she tries to make it better by saying "Only God can judge us, forget the haters because somebody loves ya." That isn't making the song any better, it's just being disrespectful to God by making it seem like you can do whatever you want because God loves "ya" and he will forgive you afterwards. And even just the line "We like to party" isn't good because "partying" isn't good because it usually involves drinking. Miley isn't even 21 yet, first of all. Second of all, drinking usually leads to other things. Her other song,

Wrecking Ball is about one of her boyfriends that broke up with her and "Wrecked" her. Her music video is the worst part. She is naked on a wrecking ball. The music video is number 2 on iTunes which means many people paid money and watch the music video. She is sending a message that your body is what makes you a good person and guys only love you for your body. This video is bad because she has a younger sister who is 13 years old and she has obviously seen the video. Miley is not a good role model for her sister. Also, when she is 40 and has kids, her kids and their friends will find the video and that can't turn out good. Just like the Be Safe 8th Grade thing we just did: never put something online that you might later regret!

C. CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION (10 pts)

- What kind of messages does your element give? (Good/bad/both?) Explain to support your answer.
- How do these messages compare to Christian teaching? WWJT? (What Would Jesus Think of this element?)

This element gives off a terrible message. Miley used to be a role model to all of the little girls that watched and loved Hannah Montana. She has gone downhill (as many other stars have) and now the little girls that used to love her may follow in her footsteps. Not necessarily chopping all their hair off and twerking all the time, but they might turn out to be party animals and drinking and doing other bad things. She is also telling all these young girls that you need a good body to be successful. These messages completely oppose Christian teachings. Christians believe that what you look like doesn't matter. They also teach us to be as Jesus/God-like as we can. Miley is about as far away from God as you could get. Miley was actually raised in a Christian home. She has definitely not kept her religion. Jesus would think that Miley has really lost her mind. Jesus would not be happy with her and would be very disappointed. I'm sure Jesus and the Saints are praying for her.

D. TAKE ACTION! (3 pts)

Based on my examination of this element from pop culture I, a trying-to-be-a-saint Christian, believe that I should... **I will not buy her songs and I will not give money for her to be successful. Also, when the song comes on the radio, I will change the station and whenever I hear the song, I won't sing along. If the music video to either of her songs comes up, I will turn it off or not watch it. I also will try not to talk about her because that creates a buzz and then that gives her more popularity and eventually more money.**