INSTRUCTIONS: Every other month (starting in September) you are asked to undertake a Catholic examination of something from the current world of popular culture (e.g. Advertisement, book, celebrity, fashion trend, magazine, movie, music video, news story, phone app, song, Internet trend, video game, etc.). Your goal is to highlight the deeper messages (good or bad) within the example you chose and then figure out what kind of action a trying-to-be-a-saint person should take.

*Important Note: This does NOT give you free license to do anything your parents would not normally want you doing (e.g. Searching for explicit music or watching R-rated movies). You shouldn’t need to go searching far and wide for something. Rather, think about what is currently really popular or trending among teenagers in the world today and then put your “Catholic goggles” on and begin analyzing it.

What are you examining from popular culture?

**THE 3 TRANSCENDENTALS (Truth, Goodness, and Beauty)**

How true, good, or beautiful is it?
(Type one of the following answers for each: *Completely, Mostly, Somewhat, Barely, or Not at all* )

- TRUE  (How much truth does it speak or show about God, life, love, sin?)
- GOOD  (How morally good and “Jesus-friendly” is it?)
- BEAUTIFUL  (How much of it moves your heart in a good, uplifting way?)

**CATHOLIC EXAMINATION**

*Put your “Catholic goggles” on and examine the example you chose.*

What are the main messages within this? Do they match up with a Catholic worldview? Why or why not? *Go deep and connect wide!*

**ACTION STEPS**

Based on your examination of this example from popular culture, what can you do to help yourself, others around you, and the culture at large be saintlier? *Go deep and connect wide!*
5 Main Takeaways of 8th Grade Examining Pop Culture Assignments

Takeaway #1

Some pop culture is _______. A lot of it is _______. Most of it is a little of _______.

Takeaway #2

“You become what you __________________.” or “You are what you ________.”

The stuff you ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, and ____________ DOES affect you. (Studies prove this!)

Takeaway #3

Don’t know if something is good or bad for you? Ask ____________ or ____________

Would Jesus watch, see, read, listen to, focus on, or give his time to this? Would Jesus be ____________ of you for this? Would the ____________ in Heaven be ____________ you on?

Takeaway #4

Take ____________!

a. ____________ action: Choose things which encourage or help you be a ________ and reject things which tempt you or cause you to ________.

b. ____________ action: Help others (friends, siblings, teammates, parents, etc.) make good, saintly ____________.

c. Community & ____________ action: Help the community and culture around you become ____________ and ____________ through your actions.

Takeaway #5

If you’re going ___________________, you’re probably going ___________________

Since a lot of pop culture flows away from ________, you will most likely have to go ____________ the current at times to be holy.

In other words, be ____________! (or be like the _________________________!)