**Anderson/NAIS 200**

**Project: Indigenous Peoples in the Media**

**3-4 pages (typed, double-spaced) with references**

**Due: April 4—Please send via email and put NAIS Media Project in subject line**

As we have been learning, Native peoples have not had accurate portrayal in history, films, advertising, television and more. Television shows or old western movies repeatedly have shown Indians as savagely attacking settlers. Multiple corporations and sports teams use images of Native peoples to promote themselves. depictions do not represent reality. For example, the representation of Pocahontas in Disney films creates a stereotype that a young native girl saves a white man and falls in love with him. from our readings about Pocahontas, we know this is far from the truth.

For this assignment, you will critically analyze a particular aspect of how Native peoples have been portrayed in the media and popular culture. You can do this by finding a figure in history, a contemporary Native person, or a generalized stereotype. As an example, you can take the theme of the Vanishing Indian and trace that representation in different media (e.g. a TV show, a novel, and a children's book). You can explore older cartoons (such as Warner Bros) to see how these may have been adopted as images for Native American mascots. You could also look at the contempory “Mollie of Denali” to see how the cartoon image has changed for the better. You may choose a figure such as Tonto and look at him from the *Lone* Ranger 1950s show to the portrayal by Johnny Depp. You may choose a contemporary figure such as Deb Halaand, Winona LaDuke, Wes Studi, or Supaman to discuss how they are changing the stereotypes of Native peoples.

You will of course need to do a little bit of research about these stereotypes and the figures you will write about, but be careful to vet your sources. There are far too many erroneous websites. If you are unsure about something, just check with me.

You have options for the format of this project. You may write a traditional essay a four to five pages, or you may choose a [multi genre format](https://writing.colostate.edu/gallery/multigenre/introduction.htm) such as creating a magazine or diary. The link (in blue) provided can give you some ideas for such a project, and I am always available to answer questions.