Sociology behind Halloween Webquest

Why we Dress up

Sites to visit:

1. <http://nortonbooks.typepad.com/everydaysociology/2007/10/killing-death-t.html>

2. <http://health.usnews.com/healthnews/articles/2012/10/25/psychoanalyzing-10-popular-halloween-costumes>

1. Why we mock death

* Explain how Halloween helps us “mock death.” Why is this important?

* How is “poisoned candy” an example of an urban legend *(a humorous or horrific story or piece of information circulated as though true)*? Is it something we should be afraid of?
* How do hospital and crime shows on T.V. serve a similar purpose to Halloween?

2. Psychoanalyzing Halloween Costumes

- Scroll through the list of 10 costumes. Have you ever dressed as any of these? If so, does the explanation fit your reason why?

- Pick one costume and explain the proposed psychology behind it in your own words. Do you agree with the analysis? Why or why not?

Gender and Dressing up

1. http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2011/10/29/sexy-femininity-and-gender-inequality

2. <http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2013/10/27/halloween-costumes-then-and-now/>

3. <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-10-psychiatrist-children-halloween.html>

1. Expectations for men vs. women

- Explain how female costumes differ from men’s

- Why does the author say women may buy the men’s costume, but men won’t usually buy the women’s costume?

- What do you think of the author’s argument that women may feel empowered in men’s costumes, but men may feel vulnerable and ridiculous in women’s costumes? Is there anything to it? Explain.

2. Sexy kids costumes?

- Pick one of the costumes and describe how it has changed through the years.

- How does the change reinforce gender stereotypes?

- To objectify someone is to treat them as a one dimensional object (in this case a physical one), as opposed to a multifaceted individual. Do these costumes objectify girls? Explain.

3. Breaking Taboos and Reinforcing Gender Roles

- Would you let your son be a princess for Halloween? Explain.

- Would you let your daughter dress as a construction worker for Halloween? Explain

Costumes? Racist?

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/26/living/halloween-ethnic-costumes/index.html>

1. Culturally insensitive or racist costumes

- What are examples of culturally insensitive or racist costumes?

- Do you think there anything wrong with wearing a costume that may offend a culture if you are dressing as the specific character does in the Show but not changing the color of your skin Explain.

- Are there any costumes that would/do offend you? Explain.

Now Answer these Questions:

1. What are five costumes you’ve worn in the past?

2. Will you be dressing up this year?

3. If yes, what will you wear? If no, why not?