

Media And The West Answer Key

1. Media type + specific title; student responses will vary.
2. Examples must come from selected media; look for references to themes like adventure, violence, heroism.
3. Hard labor, community-building challenges, realistic law enforcement, Native American perspectives or displacement.
4. Student answer should show clear contrast between mythic portrayal and real historical complexity.
5. Expected ideas: excitement appeals to audiences, easier storytelling, profit motives, cultural tradition of heroic narratives.
6. Responses may vary; evaluate clarity, reasoning, and support from the passage or media examples.

Teacher's Guide

- Encourage students to choose media they are familiar with; approval may be needed for age-appropriate selections.
- Promote critical thinking by asking: "Who benefits when history is simplified?"
- Vocabulary to preview: **portray, incomplete, mythic, displacement.**
- Differentiation:
 - Provide a list of acceptable media examples for students who struggle to choose one.
 - Advanced students may include a second media source for comparison.
- Engagement ideas:
 - Small-group discussions where students briefly present their chosen media and one myth vs. reality insight.
 - Exit ticket: "One new truth about the West I learned today is..."
- Extension activities:
 - Media literacy project—students create a short review describing how their media shapes the audience's view of the West.
 - Research assignment linking a character or theme from media to a real historical figure or event.