Cinnamon Hillyard* (chillyard@uw.edu), 18115 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011. Using Popular Culture to Meet Quantitative Reasoning Teaching and Learning Goals. Preliminary report.

This presentation will give an overview of a seminar-style quantitative reasoning course for junior and senior liberal arts students. Each week, the course focused on an example from the media and worked with a math topic related to it. The media examples included movies, clips from Seinfeld, children’s literature, newspaper articles, and advertisements. The underlying mathematical topics included basic statistics, reading and creating graphs, measuring growth, and geometry. Samples of students’ final projects and online discussions will be given to illustrate how the use of popular culture can be an effective vehicle in teaching quantitative reasoning. Critical reflections that illuminate some challenges in using this medium to meet quantitative reasoning teaching and learning goals will also be discussed. (Received September 28, 2005)