**MAC 446.TA Sample Discussion Questions**

1. As Mary Vavrus describes in “Opting Out Moms in the News,” the Sunday *New York Times Magazine* released a cover story about mothers leaving their professional and executive jobs to be stay-at-home moms/wives. They called this idea the “opt-out revolution.” The cover story “spurred both angry and affirming responses in readers, and generated numerous print and television news stories around the world.” This idea was ridiculed for being prefeminist. The article suggests a stereotype for mothers.The “opt-out” revolution gained significant media attention. I am curious: if males were to take part in a similar revolution would the stay-at home-fathers receive the same media attention? How would it differ? How would the controversies surrounding the issue change? Why don’t we see more stay-at-home dads?

2. In “Progress and Persistent Problems,” Nancy Worthington examines news coverage of violence against women, including issues such as “distorted story selection, gender stereotyping, and inadequate attention to structural causes of gender violence.” It emphasizing the significance of the impact of the way local news represents violence against women because of the role it plays in the community. “Acquaintance rapes and rapes perpetrated against women of color and poor women are especially unlikely to appear in the news, as are rapes in which the perpetrator and victim are both people of color. Researchers have attributed the imbalance to news values that privilege unusualness, conflict, and titillation, leading journalists to cover most often the types of assaults that least often occur. Such disproportionate story selection inaccurately suggests rapes are comparatively rare, and most involve white, middle class women attacked by men of color previously unknown to the victim.” Also, Worthington writes, “Sexist stereotyping suggests some women provoke rape and some circumstances diminish the responsibility of male assailants. News representations can invite audiences to deliberate on the choices made by female victims, including their apparel, any alcohol or drug consumption, and decisions to venture outside the home.” I find it EXTREMELY disturbing that under any circumstances that a woman may be blamed for her rape. How does this stereotyping of women benefit the media? Why would they almost suggest that women are not victims in rape cases?

3. The article “Women and Newsmaking: Making Connections Between the Global and the Local,” by MargarethaGeertsema, looks at the rise and effects of globalization: “women continue to be underrepresented and stereotyped in national, international and global news media. The problem is exacerbated when traditional geographic boundaries are crossed and the media in one country report on issues and events, particularly those that impact women, in another country.”Aren’t these misrepresentations of women across the globe perpetuating stereotypes? Can we analyze global media without knowing about the specific culture being examined?