- 1. North Dakota State University
- 2. 24 April 2006, 11:00 am to 11:30 am
- 3. I was in the Alumni Lounge, or what's left of it due to construction, in the Memorial Union. Some students were studying in the area, which was no larger than a moderately sized meeting room. I sat in a corner with a view of the students in the area and those walking by. I had just missed the between class shuffle, so not many people were in the Union. Also, it was a beautiful day so many preferred to walk outside.

## FIRST PIECES ARE OKAY: FULL 5 PTS.

4. Technical gadgets are currently a big part of popular culture. Within seconds of starting to observe, a girl pulled out a cell phone; I would later see a good majority using them. There was a student with headphones on, but it was not from an iPod, rather most likely a CD player. Another group took an impromptu picture with a digital camera. Finally, coming down from the ceiling nearby was a wireless network transmitter.

## SO NOTED.

The appearance of students was also a key into today's pop culture. Most had backpacks, but there were some of the single strap sling bags. In general, students were in jeans or shorts and t-shirts or sweatshirts, while staff or teachers wore a more business casual look. Outright blatant hair coloring was nowhere to be seen; if anyone had dyed their hair, it was subtle and did not look fake. OKAY. 5 PTS.

- 5. I would partially agree with the premise that my observations would be mirrored at other colleges; my only point of contention is location. Within our area, state, and perhaps Midwest region I can agree because we all have similar backgrounds. However, I believe there would be some moderate to great differences in different regions of the country (i.e. coasts). Also, I can attest from my study abroad experience to the fact that foreign institutions of higher education, although having many similarities, have equal or greater differences of expressions of pop culture.
  ON THE RIGHT TRACK. 5 PTS.
- 6. I was surprised to not see any iPods during my observation period; as I walk to and from class I see many students with them. iPods are definitely prevalent throughout the country at colleges, along with cell phones, wireless Internet, and digital cameras. In general, our dress is also similar to the rest of the country, though perhaps a bit conservative when it comes to summer attire. The dominance of the Internet and television has helped quicken the pace at which popular culture spreads. Although we may not be at the forefront of popular movements, we are not longer years behind. FINE! 5 PTS.

25 PTS.