Thesis: True rebels might exist today, but they pale in number to the plethora of people who purchase their rebellion; our “rebels” today are celebrities who amuse and entertain us, but do little more than that.

Subtopic One: Today there are true rebels—but few.

- What is a rebel:
  - Rudnick’s def: people of true accomplishment and rebellion. USE QUOTE.

- Bono
  - Has the outward appearance of a rebel (big glasses, trendy clothes, and the lead singer of perhaps the most popular rock band of the last 20 years).
  - Helped put together the “Sun City Benefit.”
  - Involved in US Aid for Africa.
  - Recently nominated for a Nobel peace prize.

- John Stewart
  - A comic who becomes a voice of opposition.
  - Better election coverage than the press.
  - A brutal satire of all political idiocy, left and right.

- Still rebels today purchase rebellion—selling it.

Subtopic Two: The Faux Rebel

- Rudnick: “I’m sexy and I want your money.”

- Faux Rebel One: Madonna
  - Madonna: A “transgressive rebel” who takes club culture and sells it.
  - Latches onto to “the material girl”, “Norma jean,” and mystical Judaism as ways to sell herself and her music.
  - A calculated sexy woman—cunning, but not rebellious.

- 50 Cent
  - “Get rich or die Trying” a rebellious seeming statement.
  - Have rappers like NWA talking about truth.
  - With Fitty, we have marketing trumping everything else.
  - Rap, not hip-hop, is about riches and women possessed, little else.

Conclusion: Rebels are now marketing tools. You can buy Che Guevara shirts, without knowing his politics; you can buy a Ramones’ tee-shirt, without knowing their music; and you can have a poster of Malcolm X on your wall, but have no sense of his significance to the African-American community.