

READING ANTICIPATION GUIDE:
“The Mouse that Roared”: Walt Disney and American Culture”

1. In the column labeled *Before Reading*, indicate your initial response (true or false) to the statement.
2. After reading the chapters from Steven Watts’ *The Magic Kingdom*, answer the questions a second time and support your answers by citing evidence from one or more of the chapters that **shows** why the statement is true or false. You may type your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Please write in complete sentences.

Before Reading

After Reading

Though critics and historians have interpreted Walt Disney’s 1950s films as pro-capitalist, Disney himself never explicitly denounced communism.

Despite the political climate of his time, Walt Disney kept his films free of any references to American supremacy.

In many films, Disney assumed an welcoming, tolerant stance toward both Native Americans and African Americans that was quite progressive for his time.

Walt Disney stayed away from producing live films about nature, because he believed Americans would rather see technological and social progress on screen.

Disneyland attendance started off slow because Cold War anxieties made the park's optimistic Outlook hard to embrace for most Americans
