

## **“Case Study” Analysis Essay Assignment \*Now due April 15**

This essay writing assignment is to go into a deeper narrative analysis of a film, television show, advertising campaign etc, paying attention to how the story is formally constructed, and what is the overall meaning that is developed through those components of its form. Choose an artifact of analysis that you feel challenges or adds something new to a certain type of narrative convention- aka that the narrative is innovative in some way.

**Assignment Specs:** 6-7 pages (~2000 words); Times New Roman Font; Double-spaced.

Please cite your references (including the multimedia work you are analyzing) according to MLA or APA style in a references section at the end of the paper. (Include author and date citation in text). Do not worry otherwise about a cover page or header etc. other than your name and relevant info on first page. Please feel free to include outside references that describe filmic or philosophical concepts that you might apply in your analysis.

**Include in your analysis an attention to the following:**

**Plot** - Briefly Describe the plot and setting. What issues does it raise or what are the main themes? What do you see as the main purpose of the film? What are its strengths or weaknesses?

**And below, focus on what is most meaningful to the particular work:**

**Narrative structure** - how is the story told? From the perspective of one or several characters? How were the characters represented in a way that shaped the audience's capacity for empathizing with them? What is the temporality or chronology of the story? Were there any techniques such as symbolism, character development or foreshadowing/flashback used? Were there other previous genres / conventions / aesthetics that this multimedia work can be compared to?

**Structural / Formal qualities**

**Language** - What was the overall idea as it would have been written in the screenplay? What was the style of the dialogue? Did it feature a lot of dialogue or a little? Were there notable lines of dialogue central to the meaning of the overall work?

**Cinematography** - What is the style of the cinematography? What is the lighting like? there a color scheme? Are the shots primarily wide angle (far away), close-ups or a mixture of both? Is the camera steady or does it feature a shaky camera movement? Was there anything else that was particularly stylistic or noticeable in the framing, angle, or camera movement?

**Editing** - What is the tempo/pace/speed of the work? Are the shots long or short? Does

the editing jump through time in

**Sound** - What is the soundtrack, score, or sound design like?

**Emotional affect**- What was your emotional or cognitive reaction to specific aspects of the work? How were you as an audience member called forth to mentally interact with the film? (Or, interact in another way if it was a game, etc)

As is the case with all of the assignments, this essay can be shaped according to what is meaningful about the work you choose. You don't have to address every one of these components, and certainly not in this order, but I have included this information to help inspire your analytical approach! Choose to analyze something that you are passionate about, and something that you feel challenged you as an audience-- And then get specific about how exactly the work achieved that result.

The assignment will be graded according to whether you fulfill the requirements listed at the top of the page, and whether you demonstrate a thoughtful and in-depth analysis of the work. t An "A" paper will feature writing that is clear, descriptive, and edited into a coherent logic or order. It will present an analysis that is descriptive and specific, offering some insightful connections between the formal qualities of the work and the larger symbolic meaning achieved through those devices. .