

Think Pieces: Reality TV

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Due Dates

Assignments must be submitted on Canvas by the day and time listed on Canvas. NO submissions will be accepted after the deadline.

Goal

Completing this assignment helps you understand what you are reading, helps you slow down to pay attention, and prepares you for a productive class discussion about the material.

What to do

1. Pick out the thesis statement from the reading: This is the argument the author(s) wants to make, the reason for the work. Quote it. This should look something like this: “The article will make the argument that the television show *Pee-wee’s Big Adventure* affirms notions of white masculinity while presenting itself as progressive and advocating for diversity” (p. 2). Next, in a few sentences, assess whether the author carried through on showing their thesis in the reading, and how well they did this. Support what you say with evidence—evidence is when you draw from the reading directly to show where they did or did not support their thesis.
2. Pick out the main conclusions in the reading. These are often related to the thesis statement. You can put these in your own words, or pick a short quote in the reading that summarizes these. In a few sentences, evaluate whether the author actually showed/established these things in the body of the reading, and how well they did this. Provide evidence for your assessment. Again, remember, evidence is when you draw from the reading directly to show where the conclusions were or were not supported.
3. Pick a quote you find interesting and thought provoking in terms of what it can help you see and think about in relation to either surveillance, neoliberalism or critical issues (pick one or two). Critical issues are when we think about inequality, power, oppression and privilege, usually in relation to things like race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, religion, national identity, for instance. The quote should be 2-5 sentences. Be sure to use quotation marks when quoting, and include the page number in parenthesis next to it (see example in item #1). Immediately after the quote, put into your own words what the quote says. This should be several sentences explaining the meaning of the quote. Then, importantly, discuss why the quote is interesting in terms of helping us gain insight about critical issues, surveillance or neoliberalism in the media.

Grading: Complete/Incomplete

You will receive an automatic incomplete/fail (a zero) if:

- 1- The writing is not coherent, clear, grammatical and organized: I need to clearly understand what you are saying.
- 2- If the work does not show an understanding of the main ideas (thesis, conclusions) in the reading
- 3- Assessments about the thesis is not clear and supported
- 4- Assessments about the conclusion is not clear and supported
- 5- There is no assessment of media in relation to the quote
- 6- There is no assessment of critical issues, surveillance or neoliberalism in relation to the quote

- 7- Comments about media and critical issues, surveillance or neoliberalism are not directly related to the quote
- 8- Instructor feedback on previous work was not followed here: Take into account all previous feedback received

In addition to satisfying the above eight minimum requirements, a complete is normally granted for satisfying a combination of a minimum of 2 of the 5 items listed below:

- Offering thoughtful insights about critical issues, surveillance or neoliberalism using the quote
- Offering thoughtful insights about media using the quote
- Offering an insightful assessment of how well the author showed their thesis
- Offering an insightful assessment of how well the author supported their conclusions
- Showing an excellent grasp of the main ideas in the reading in your discussion of some or all of: the thesis, conclusion, quote

Format & Length

Assignments are one page single-spaced, typed, and printed in a reasonably sized 12-point font (Times New Roman is a good font) with one-inch margins.

The minimum requirement is 500 words. You can write more. Less than 500 words will result in an automatic incomplete (0). The 500-word count EXCLUDES identifying information/prefatory information: Do not include your name, the title of the assignment, date etc. This info automatically provided on the Canvas tab when you submit the work.

All work must be submitted online on Canvas as a Word document (.doc or .docx)—other formats usually do not work on Canvas. Paper and email submissions will not be accepted.

The writing must be in academic essay style, full sentences, grammatical, free of spelling errors, well organized and clear.

Turnitin

All assignments submitted through Canvas will automatically be run through a plagiarism detection service called Turnitin. In cases of plagiarism, the instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized). For information on Turnitin, please go to http://turnitin.com/en_us/features/originalitycheck

Citing Sources

If you cite sources not assigned in class, you must use MLA or APA format (research this). You will receive an incomplete if you do not cite properly since this can be considered plagiarism.

If you cite sources assigned in class, simply include quotations marks around the quote, and the page number in parenthesis next to the quote. See quote in item 1 above under “What to do” for how this should look.

Here are links with info on MLA & APA formats:

- MLA: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- APA: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>