

ESSAY 2: VISUAL NETWORKS

Writing Exercise 5

Due: Tues, 10/16

Reading: "Understanding Star Wars" (326-330)

We've been discussing, analyzing and writing about various forms of images and their impact on ourselves, our culture and our writing processes. After you read Charles Ealy's essay on the *Star Wars* movies as a cultural mirror, we will have completed discussions about class, race, gender and ethnicity of popular images (both static and dynamic). You have already formed some opinions about these issues.

Write a letter to a well-known director or writer in which you argue either for or against Hollywood's social responsibility to avoid stereotyping characters or images based on race, ethnicity, gender or class. (Do not pick all of these issues; pick just one.) To support your argument, use at least 2 images/scenes that appeared in your Writing Exercises. (In other words, you've done much of the work on this argument already.) In addition, use at least 2 brief quotes from 2 different essays that we've read since the beginning of our work on Essay 2. Even though this is in a letter form, use MLA in-text citation to cite your sources. (Don't forget to 1) use signal phrases, 2) introduce the author and title of the essay, 3) analyze and connect the quote to your idea.)

You **may not** let your friend know that this letter is an assignment. This means that you have to figure out how to keep your reader interested and engaged throughout the letter. How are you going to draw him or her into your thoughts and arguments? How will you keep your friend from stopping midway through the letter? (Be creative!) Though this is a letter to someone you know, please use proper language, grammar and citation methods.

This assignment needs to be turned in (as usual) at our next class meeting. **AND** you need to email the letter to your friend (before our next class meeting)! Add my email as a recipient to the letter. **For each day that you do not email, you will lose a grade step on the final draft of this essay.**

Page Length: 600 words

Administrative Notes:

- ▶ This assignment needs to be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins.
- ▶ Type your name, the date and Writing Exercise 5, Essay 2 on your written assignment.
- ▶ Type your name and the page number in the upper right corner of every page.
- ▶ Give this exercise an original title (of your creation).
- ▶ Staple the pages together. (DO NOT FOLD OR PAPERCLIP YOUR PAGES.)
- ▶ Proofread everything before you turn it in. There should be no spelling or typographical errors.

Writing Tips

- ▶ Provide details to create an image for the reader.
- ▶ Offer an analysis of those details without overloading on description.
- ▶ Analyze personal experience.
- ▶ Avoid using us, we, our or you.
- ▶ Avoid run-on & fragment sentences.
- ▶ Make sure each sentence connects to the next.
- ▶ Place punctuation inside quotation marks.
- ▶ Use signal phrases to introduce a quote.
- ▶ Include author/title in that quote's introduction.
- ▶ Analyze/discuss/connect the quote to your idea.
- ▶ Use MLA in-text citation method.