

Weekly Writings Fall 2015

1. Movie Review. Write a movie review (any movie). Include a paragraph of description (plot, characters, etc.) and a paragraph of evaluation (good, bad, reasons why). Also include the use of an example, and the use of an analogy (comparing the movie or a character to something else).

2. Speech Critique. Watch the following speech (FDR declaring war after Pearl Harbor):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhtuMrMVJdk&list=PLDBB31A2314B82AE0&index=20>

Give three specific points or arguments about this speech (not assertions, but arguments with some kind of support); make sure one of your points specifically addresses his use of an argument type (example, analogy, sign, cause, authority, principle).

3. Bibliography and Citation Exercise: See handout and circle or highlight errors in the references and in the quotes/citations.

4. Self as Writer. Identify your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Create and briefly explain a 2- or 3-point personal plan to improve your writing.

5. Essential Metaphor. What is your essential metaphor? Describe the important elements (commonplaces) of the vehicle. How does this metaphor shape your view on life?

6. Genre Evolution OR Movement Participation. Choose 1 of these:

A) Pick a movie or music genre you are familiar with. Identify the “organizing principle” of the genre, and then explain how it has evolved and changed over time. Has it become a hybrid (mixed) genre? Is this change positive in your view? OR

B) Identify a social movement you have participated in. What stage do you think the movement is in, and what are the dominant rhetorical strategies used in the movement to gain widespread acceptance? Is the movement a success?

7. Your Story. What is your life narrative? What do you think are the strongest elements in your story (plot, characters, scene, time, cause, narrator, audience, theme)? If your life was made into a movie, would it have fidelity (reality check) and coherence (consistency) for the audience?

8. Visual and Dramatistic Criticism. Watch an AT&T Ad (one of the ones with the man and the children around a table) OR pick another visual artifact or visual metaphor (and provide the URL). Use visual communication terms to describe the visual elements, and then provide two critical observations based on dramatism concepts (identification, cycle of terms, Pentad) we have discussed in class. What is your final judgment of the ad?

Comment [GG1]: Writing assignment description.

Low stakes, regular writing practice helps improve students' writing.

Comment [GG2]: Assignment prompts include rationales, strategies, and/or suggestions for writing in this field or genre.

9. Belief System.

1. Identify a belief system (ideology) where your beliefs are dominant in American culture. How do you think this ideology was rhetorically legitimized over time and became dominant?

2. Identify a belief system (ideology) where your beliefs are not dominant in American culture. How are your beliefs marginalized?

10. Self as Critic. Assess your strengths and weaknesses as a rhetorical critic. What do you think you will carry forward from this class into your life?

11. What was done well in Comm 300?

12. What needs improvement in Comm 300?