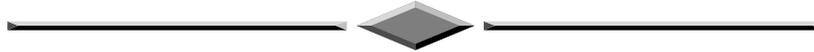


# Capstone Analysis Paper



**Purpose:** This paper will help you practice the writing process and integrate information from readings into your writing. It will also teach you how to break down a topic into parts and analyze the parts in relation to the whole. Finally, this paper will help you see connections between what we learned in class and other texts you read outside of school.

**Assignment:** For this assignment, you will write a 3-4 page paper, typed, double spaced. You will need to choose a text from popular culture that you read and/or are familiar with from outside of class. This may include such things as a song, a movie, a TV show, a magazine, an advertisement, a video game, etc. Then you need to choose one overall category that we studied this quarter (education, government, race, class, or gender) that relates to this text and/or helps you to interpret it. Once you have these things, your paper needs to do the following:

- **Thesis:** Your paper will need a thesis statement that answers one of these questions (depending on the category you chose):
  - *What does your text show about the idea that education offers the promise of a better future for our society?*
  - *What does your text show about the idea that the U.S. is truly the land of the free?*
  - *What does your text show about race?*
  - *What does your text show about class?*
  - *What does your text show about gender construction?*
- **Support:** In your essay will need to provide a minimum of 3 supporting points. Each point should focus on a different aspect of your popular culture text. It should then include descriptions from your popular culture text that illustrates some aspect of your thesis. In addition, each point should also include quotes or paraphrases from the texts we've read this quarter and that connects to or further explains the support from your popular culture text.
- **Development:** Your overall paper needs to develop your thesis by identifying a variety of elements from your popular culture text. Don't just talk about one or two aspects of this text, but rather focus on several different ones so as to give the reader a feel for how the majority of the text illustrates your thesis. You will also need to include your own analysis (or explanation) in each body paragraph to discuss how the support backs up the thesis.
- **Organization:** This will be an analysis paper, which means the body paragraphs will each focus on different parts of the overall topic/text you are discussing. The paper should have a clear introduction with a thesis. It should present body paragraphs that each focus on a different element of your popular culture text and that support your thesis. Finally, it should have a conclusion. Everything that we learned thus far about constructing paragraphs applies.
- **Editing:** The paper should be proof read and edited for sentence structure, spelling, and grammar.

*Conferences with Julie on this paper will take place Mon-Wed., March 8, 9, 10  
Final Draft due in your Portfolio*

### **What I Will look for (or how you will be graded):**

- ◆ **Thesis:** Does your paper have a clear thesis that answers the assigned question in one clear sentence?
- **Support:** Do you support your thesis with concrete examples from your popular culture text? Have you included some quotes from the texts we've read this quarter to further illustrate the ideas in your popular culture text?
- **Development:** Have you developed your overall discussion so it addresses several aspects of your popular culture text? Have you included analysis in each body paragraph?
- **Organization:** Does the paper follow basic essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion)? Does each paragraph connect to the one previous to it and to the thesis for the paper? Are transitions used to show connections between ideas? Do body paragraphs include clear topic sentences, support, and analysis? Are body paragraphs coherent?
- **Grammar and Mechanics:** Is the paper well edited and proofread for the grammar and mechanics conventions? Do the sentences convey meaning in a way that is clear to the reader? Have you included page numbers for all quotes?