

PAPER 2: RESISTANCE

For your second DOC 3 paper, you will build on what you learned about interpreting a primary text for Paper 1, and incorporate feedback from your TA and peers to write another formal essay that interprets the meaning of a film, visual text, short story, song, or poem selected from Weeks 4-6.

ASSIGNMENT:

A key theme for Weeks 4-6 is cultural resistance to society's dominant norms or ideologies. In a 5-6 page paper, analyze how one of the primary texts resists cultural norms or challenges a dominant ideology.

For your paper, annotate the key details and elements in the text. How do the formal elements of the text work together to suggest meanings that support, resist, or generally complicate various cultural narratives or norms? Different views, voices, and arguments can work in the same text, so some elements might challenge one set of norms while other elements reinforce a set of equally disturbing norms. As you write, aim to convince readers that your interpretation is reasonable and adds to an on-going discussion about the text. You might not change your reader's personal interpretation, but you can construct a persuasive interpretation of how elements in the text resist or complicate a cultural narrative or norm.

PURPOSE: This assignment has four goals: for you to **1)** learn how to analyze critically the details and elements of another primary text; **2)** show an informed reader how you have interpreted the text; **3)** use the written and oral feedback from your TA to improve your interpretive writing skills; and **4)** create an interpretation that is arguable, clearly reasoned, and based on evidence selected from the text. You may decide to include a claim from a secondary text if it helps you establish the significance of your interpretation and its social and historical context.

DUE: **Friday, May 23**, to your TA at the beginning of lecture, along with a completed Thesis and Plan, rough draft, peer review, and rubric. **An electronic copy** is due to Turnitin.com before 4:00 p.m.

LENGTH: 5-6 pages (approximately 1500 words).

FORMAT: Times New Roman 12 point font, one-inch margins, no cover page.

CITATIONS: MLA in-text citation style; include a properly formatted Works Cited page.

SOURCES: For this paper, use only the selected primary text and its related lectures, readings, and class discussions. This is not a research paper. Please talk to your TA before including any outside reference material. Often outside research does not lead to stronger interpretations in this assignment. Take care to cite ALL sources used in your paper and include all of your sources on the paper's Works Cited page.

HELP WITH WRITING YOUR PAPER:

In addition to the support you have from your TA, there are other resources available to you as you think about and write your paper. Please see the DOC 3 Handouts page for useful documents such as *Writing About Imaginative Texts*, *Analyzing Cultural Texts*, *Writing About Movies*, and *The Writing Process Continues*. Also, feel free to sign up for an appointment with Amber Carini, the DOC Writing Assistant (sign-up sheets posted Thursdays at noon, 125 Sequoyah). You may also sign up for individual tutoring with OASIS's language program (Center Hall 317). Last, the supplemental booklet you received with *Keys for Writers* offers individual online tutoring; see the DOC 3 Handouts page for detailed instructions.