

ESSAY 3: ARGUING MEANING

First Draft

Due: Thurs, 2/23

(1 email copy by 8am + 1 copy to class)

Reading: Read Hacker, Section W1-6

First Draft:

We've been discovering that Mauk & Metz are right: "Everything has many possible meanings and implications (unstated layers of meaning)" (163). We've discussed the manipulation of statistics, the cultural meaning of "spam," the definition of "greatest," the marking of gender, the creation of "cultural images," the emotional emptiness of a structure (a house) and the fact that nothing has a consistent meaning.

Today, we discussed our greatest media outlet, television shows and their meanings. You spent more than half the class and many journal pages brainstorming and taking notes during Quickwrites (all of those questions you answered in your journal). We all found out that each show has an interesting context, subtext and intertextuality behind it. Sometimes it is apparent; other times it is not.

We also spent some time looking for support and creating a thesis statement in preparation for writing a First Draft. For Thursday, write your first draft based on the television show that was the topic of today's brainstorming session. What meaning is made in your television show? Where do you find this meaning? How can you convince readers of your interpretation of this television show's meaning?

Evidence:

Avoid any outside resources other than a dictionary. Instead, use textual reference & explication (explain & connect), allusions (allude to other situations beyond text), denotations/connotations, personal testimony, appeals to logic (logical line of reasoning), appeals to value (link particular claims) – very similar to the support used in our readings. These are all pieces of support that will be common knowledge for your reader.

Writing Notes:

We've been keeping a list of "Common Mistakes" dealing with both mechanical (grammar, punctuation, etc.) and stylistic (details, topic sentences, etc.) points. For this draft, pay special attention to editing your first and last paragraphs: Please remember that your first paragraph should contain a very brief introduction as well as your thesis statement. Your concluding paragraph should not summarize the main points in the essay but should hint at your thesis and any thoughts beyond. (Read Mauk & Metz 210 for hints on writing an effective conclusion.)

Submission:

Email your first draft to me by 8am on Thursday (2/23). Attach the file as a Word or WordPerfect document. Bring 1 copy to Thursday's class to workshop. That workshoped first draft (and your brainstorming notes) will be submitted with your final draft of Essay 3. Failure to bring a copy to class or to email your draft on time will result in the normal late penalties (see course policies).

Page Length: 1000 words (approx. 3pp)

Administrative Notes:

- ▶ This assignment needs to be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins.
- ▶ Type your name, the date and First Draft, Essay 3 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.