

PAPER III

Media Analysis & Critique

Directions:

Choose an example of entertainment media, whether it's television, film, music, literature, or visual art, that portrays incarceration. Considering the material we've covered this semester, critique the ways in which author, director, or artist, confronts issues we've discussed in class concerning mass incarceration. Are they authentic portrayals? What aspect of incarceration does it confront? Does it make an argument about our prison system? If so, how well does it argue its position? What strategies does it use?

NOTE: Before you choose a topic for this paper, spend at least fifteen minutes googling around the internet to see if there are extra materials about it. Think about where you might find authoritative voices/critics. They won't all be academics. They might be on Slate or The Rolling Stone or the AV Club. They might be in the Siskel and Ebert Archives.

Make sure you summarize the media as a whole before bringing out which angle you will examine and examples to back up your point.

Also, make sure you use specific details from the "text" you're analyzing (your primary source) to back up assessments you're making about it. Pay attention to the various devices used to get the message across. For instance: color palette, or sound. The way the camera portrays a person, or the way the voice sounds in the recording. All of these go towards creating a specific "effect." Your job is to name that effect and then make a judgment call about it.

Feel free to focus your critique to particular episodes or scenes. You may also compare and contrast (write about two primary sources) if you'd like.

Requirements:

Four to six sources (including the option of using the ones we've read/discussed). These can include reviews and/or critiques of your primary source.

Length: 5-7 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman Font

Primary Source: (more possibilities listed under "Extra Materials" on iCollege)

TV Shows: *Atlanta*, *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order*, *The Wire*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Supernatural*, *Oz*, *Criminal Minds*, *Prison Break*

Films: *Shawshank Redemption*, *Dead Man Walking*, *The Green Mile*, *O Brother Where Art Thou*, *A Place to Stand*,

Books: *The New Jim Crow (the whole book)*, *Orange is the New Black*, *The Green Mile*, *Just Mercy*, *A Place to Stand*,

Music: Johnny Cash's *Folsom Prison* album. Kendrick Lamar's Grammy performance. Lots of Tupac songs.

Music videos for this are okay too!

RUBRIC:

Intro/Thesis: 25%

Organization: 25%

Analysis/Integrating Sources: 25%

Grammar/Punctuation: 25%

PROPOSAL AND ANNOTATED BIBIOLGRAPHY

Due: April 8th or 10th on iCollege 12 hours before your Conference

NOTE: Even if you're working with a partner, you'll need to write your own proposal.

Directions: Write a short (one paragraph) proposal for your analysis, and then follow it up with an annotated bibliography for a minimum of **four** sources that you are thinking of using.

Part I. Proposal:

The paragraph should include the following:

A brief introduction to the topic/text and what it has to do with prisons/criminal justice. Then explain how you will narrow it down. Write a couple of sentences about what you have already found out and what you still need to find out. If you are working with a partner, write about how you will split up the work. You should end the paragraph with a working thesis for the paper.

Part II. Annotated Bibliography

Write out the MLA citation and an annotation for a minimum of three sources that you will use for your final paper. Each annotation should include two parts: a brief summary of the text, and a description of how you might apply it in your paper..

THE SUMMARY:

State what the text is. Example: a pop culture critique from the *Washington Post* or *Rolling Stone*; an academic article about fighting in women's prisons.

How does the author begin, develop, and conclude the piece?

THE EVALUATION:

What in this will you apply to the paper? How will you use it? Be as descriptive as possible.

Sample MLA Annotation (From *The Owl Purdue*)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books, 1995.

[SUMMARY:] Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. The chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal as they offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

[EVALUATION]: Several of the chapters in Part I address the writing process and would help illustrate a discussion about drafting and revising processes.

