

WRITING EXERCISE #3

Due Week 3

Developing a Thesis and Plan

PART A – Due first section (April 14 or 15): your notes and one typed page explaining what you have discovered about the story, poem, song or visual text by analyzing its Level 1 and Level 2 categories of details in relation to the paper topic.

1. Carefully read and re-read the text you will interpret for your paper. Using the guidelines given in Writing Exercise 2 for your selected text, annotate and analyze the text (Level 1).
2. Categorize and connect related details (Level 2). How are the details and elements related to each other and to key values, myths, or ideologies related to conformity or nonconformity? How do the details observed – including technical or stylistic components – work together to suggest thematic meanings. (“Analyzing Cultural Texts” on the DOC website and “Writing about Literature” in *The Open Handbook* offer questions and elements to consider.)
3. Based on the related and contrasting groups of details and elements in the text, write a page in which you explain what you have learned about your chosen story, poem, visual text, or song. Suggest an overall interpretation (Level 3) linking the details and elements to the subject of conformity and nonconformity as cultural myths, values, or ideologies.

PART B – Due second section (April 16 or 17): One to two page typed thesis and plan (two pages maximum); include a working thesis, supporting reasons (sub-claims), and evidence. Attach notes you’ve drafted for Part A, above.

1. Using your notes and one page explanation, formulate a thesis statement (Level 3 overall interpretation) that is arguable, clear, and plausible to a reader familiar with your text. Focus your thesis on how a few specific elements of your chosen text suggest the text’s meaning and connection to cultural conformity and non-conformity.
2. Develop support for your thesis: Look back through your notes and the text to clarify the main categories of details and explain what each category suggests (Level 2 sub-claims). These sub-claims are needed to support your thesis. List and organize your supporting sub-claims in a logical sequence that leads to your overall interpretation. Include key terms if they help establish the logical connections. Select 1-2 Level 1 details from the text to support each sub-claim.
3. Based on your notes, complete a rough draft of your thesis statement (Level 3 interpretation with supporting reasons/ sub-claims) and an outline of your supporting sub-claims (Level 2) and evidence (Level 1 details) (*Open Handbook* chapter 4d, pages 35-39). The more detailed the outline, the better.

WAYS TO GET HELP ON YOUR PAPER:

- Use your *Open Handbook*. Thesis help: ch. 4a-b. Outline help: ch. 4d.
- See samples of "A" student work and get useful handouts on the Writing Assistance Webpage.
- Ask your TA questions and go to their office hours. Office hours posted on DOC Webpage.
- Seek Writing Assistance: 125 Sequoyah Hall. Sign-up sheets posted at noon on Thursdays.
- See a tutor at OASIS: 322 Center Hall, oasis@ucsd.edu.