

FINAL DOC WRITING EXERCISE (#5)

Due Week 9 or 10

For your last writing exercise in DOC do not write an academic essay. Rather, write reflectively and creatively out of your understanding of DOC 3. Be prepared to share your written or creative response in section.

We want you to *locate* yourself – you the individual – as a person taking this course, living in the year 2009, and responding to imaginative representations since 2000. This sort of *locating* asks you to bring together your understanding of DOC 3 with your individual experience in relation to the decade in which you are living and the music, art, literature, etc., which speaks to you. In part we want you to write in this assignment the story of your understanding of DOC 3, but by “understanding of DOC 3” here we do not mean your academic understanding (we don’t want a summary of the course) so much as what you personally have learned to make of DOC 3 in relation to your location as an individual living in the year 2009. Here are some of the components of this *locating*:

1. *Your individual experience*: Your individual experience has multiple roots: in time and place; in who your parents are and the ideals they have instilled in you; in the ways you have been shaped by your race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, class, and sexual preference; and in your personal preferences for music and leisure activities. We do not just *consume* culture; we also construct culture by the choices we make in listening to music or preferring some films to other films, etc.

2. *Your connection to the time in which you live*: Here you will draw on what you have learned in DOC 3 about the cultural and historical contexts of the decades we have studied. For instance, you are not living in the 1960s or late 1990s, but what you have learned about those periods in DOC 3 should help you define your present location by contrast. Likewise, you are located in a way that is different than that of the authors and characters you’ve studied this quarter. For example, you’re probably much younger than they are, and you may be from a different place, race or ethnic culture. So, your experience of the early 21st century is shaped by different factors and refracted through different lenses.

In 2-3 pages, or in another visual or creative format, construct a type of life story or memoir that connects your life story to DOC 3 and reflects on where you locate yourself in the culture of 2009. Don’t be afraid to take risks or to be original. We encourage you in this assignment to stretch yourself and be reflective.