

Review Assignment

This review assignment is designed to encourage you to think critically and write creatively about a piece of media you have engaged with outside of the course – think of it as a tandem assignment to the Ongoing Portfolio. It is also an opportunity to demonstrate how the tools for thinking you’ve developed over the course of the semester influences how you engage with that material. Finally, it is a chance to exercise a specific critical faculty that English courses so often ignore: that of judgment. Put simply, is a specific piece of media good or bad? Why?

What you review is entirely up to you. The only requirements are that you choose a piece of media you’ve encountered for the first time only since the beginning of the semester, and that you somehow connect it to what we’ve been talking about throughout the course. Your final review will be assessed on the following rubric.

Review Rubric		
Introduction /Context	<p>Review is connected to the course’s themes, and introduces the reader to the ideas covered in the review. This can be a creative connection to a broader concept, a good, exciting hook using a dramatic passage from the text, something interesting about when/where you encountered the text or the person who created it, a combination of these or something else entirely; really anything that would grab your readers’ attention and give them a reason for engaging with both your review and what the text you’re reviewing made you think about.</p> <p>There are no wrong answers here, just as there are no right answers. This is chance to think creatively about your audience and what might get them interested.</p>	____ / 5
Summary / Introduction to Text	<p>Review gives the necessary and relevant summary and context for the piece of media being reviewed without giving everything away. There should be enough to get a general sense of the text the review is talking about without defeating the purpose of the reader going out and reading/watching/listening to it themselves.</p>	____ / 5
Strengths and Weaknesses	<p>Review provides an analysis of both the strengths and weaknesses of the media being reviewed, including what works well and could have been improved. This is different from analysis – good reviews don’t just talk about <i>how</i> a piece of media works or what it’s arguing, but also whether those choices work or don’t work.</p>	____ / 4
Evaluation / Recommendation	<p>By the end of the review, it should be clear whether you recommend the text/film/tv show/podcast/song etc., even if it’s only by implication (more nuanced than rating something on a 5-Star system). Review makes a case for who might enjoy the text being reviewed and why (or, more provocatively, who would hate it and why).</p>	____ / 4
Formatting and Citation	<p>Essay is type-written in double-spaced twelve-point standard font, with 1-inch margins all around. Review includes a creative title.</p>	____ / 2