

RHCS 105: Media, Culture, and Identity
Spring 2016

Short Essay 3

Due Thursday, April 21

100 points of 10% of final grade

Submitted via Blackboard prior to class

Assignment Description:

In *This Film Is Not Yet Rated* (2006), documentary filmmaker Kirby Dick attempts, with the help of a private investigator, to uncover the identities of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) ratings board members and learn more about the process by which American films are rated. Largely praised by film critics as an entertaining, if at times silly, look into an otherwise mysterious process, *This Film Is Not Yet Rated* takes on a variety of issues relating to this course including, but not limited to:

- The profit motive driving media production;
- The proliferation of violence in American media (though film specifically is considered here);
- The callousness with which sex is often represented in American media (again, film specifically is considered);
- Sexism and heterosexism;
- Media effects.

In your paper of 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages, you will select what you believe are the **two (2)** most important issues raised in the film with respect to the way the ratings system is implemented (you can select from the above examples, but you are not limited to them) and discuss *why* these issues are important, drawing from both specifics from the film as well as course materials. You cannot select “wrong” issues around which to write your paper, however, you will be graded on your ability to develop and support your argument using evidence from the film and this course.

The paper should have a thesis statement that presents the two issues around which your paper focuses. The thesis statement should be supported with evidence. At least three (3) assigned materials (online articles, textbook, films, supplemental readings, etc.) for this course must be used to support your claims.

A properly formatted works cited list/bibliography is required, following either APA or Chicago Manual of Style.

Please note: the above issues are fairly broad. You will need to narrow them down appropriately to fit the constraints of this assignment.

See the other side of this page for the grading rubric for this assignment.

The assignment will be graded out of 100 points. The assignment should be submitted **via Blackboard before class on Thursday, April 21** and adhere to the following format:

- Typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman Font (or equivalent)
- Double spaced
- Include page numbers
- Pledged [Write “I pledge” either at the top or at the very end of your paper.]
- A title that is creative (and not “Paper 3”)
- “Normal” margins (approximately 1 – 1.1 inches)

The grading rubric for this assignment is as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Guidelines</u>
“A” range or 90-100 points	Paper has a clear thesis statement; Paper is conceptually sophisticated, engaged in a substantive way with both the film and course readings/required materials (using at least 3); Thought-provoking; Paper uses course concepts to demonstrate clear mastery of them; Paper uses ample evidence from the film to support claims; Clear, easy to read style; Paper includes properly formatted works cited list/bibliography as well as in-text citations/footnotes where relevant.
“B” range or 80-89 points	Paper has a thesis statement but might be general; Paper is well-developed and engaged with film and course readings/required materials; Makes solid points; Paper does not include much nuance or development; Incorporates specifics from the film and course concepts, making some connections, but at times might be overly general; Organized and well-edited; Includes works cited list/bibliography as well as in-text citations/footnotes, however, may include some errors in style.
“C” range or 70-79 points	Paper has a vague thesis statement; Paper reflects superficial engagement with the film and course readings/required materials; May not answer all component parts of assignment; Some typos; Paper is overly general, lacks concrete examples from the film; Paper may use materials from the course, but might incorporate them incorrectly or vaguely; If works cited list/bibliography is included, it consists of multiple significant errors.
“D” range or 60-69 points	Paper does not have a thesis statement; Paper is irrelevant to topic; Paper is unclear, disorganized, and tangential to assignment guidelines; Paper misuses course materials and/or does not demonstrate familiarity with the assigned film; Paper relies on clichés and generalities; Includes typos; Does not include works cited list/bibliography nor does it include in-text citations/footnotes where appropriate.
“F” range or 59 and below points	Paper does not have a thesis statement; Paper is irrelevant to assignment; Paper makes no attempt to draw upon course materials; Paper relies on generalities; Paper is confusing and unedited; Does not include works cite list/bibliography nor does it include appropriate in-text citations or footnotes.