

## TEXT REFLECTION

### Formatting

11 Point Font

1-Inch Margins

Double-Spaced

Times New Roman font

Bibliographic and Parenthetical Citations (for all Quotes, Paraphrases, and Summaries)

Proper Page Format (Names, Page Numbers, etc)

+2 Pages (Full Pages)

Left Justification

### Content

1. **Find a text** (some form of writing, a song, a work of art, or a film)

Consider the idea that texts have what we call “deeper meanings” and “deeper purposes.” Sometimes, a child’s toy is just a toy; however, sometimes, the toy stands as a reference for lost childhood or innocence (symbolism). Sometimes there are very apparent tropes and schemes, such as metaphors and repetition, which bring the tensions out (making the painting, the song or the poem not make sense).

2. Relying on your knowledge of rhetoric and text design (realizing that nothing is place arbitrarily), **make a claim about the text**, where you make a case for its “deeper meaning” or “alternative intent” and reflect on how the author/designer/director/musician might suggest those deeper meanings to an audience.

For example, some people view the film, The Matrix, as simply a good sci-fi action film, although there are so many references to the nature of philosophy that it boggles the mind. Consider, in The Matrix, the names of characters, the overall complexities of the plot, references to biblical events, and such. One could make a case that The Matrix is really a film about man’s search for God, drawing on instances such the content of the plot and etc. Another recent example is the movie, Batman Begins, which is again another good action movie. Yet, this “Batman” differs from previous “Batman” films, which do not make “Batman” a human being, but a super human. Batman Begins sees Batman as has having flaws and making mistakes, getting hurt constantly. Why? Is Batman just clumsy? Or, is the director suggesting that everyone is a hero and that heroes are not necessarily free from making mistakes? What do you think? How might you set out to prove this?

3. Try to **answer the following questions**:

What is the text really about? What is the deeper meaning?

How does the author suggest this “deeper” meaning of the text?

What kinds of visual, verbal, and/or written clues give you hints to the deeper meaning?

How does the medium (paper, film, instrumentation) help the author/designer/director/musician to achieve this blurring of making meanings complex?