

Assignment: Research-Based Analysis of a Music Video

Your final project this semester will be a 1,500-1,800-word essay (excluding Works Cited) that leads your reader through an evolving thesis about how a music video represents an issue, context, figure, or phenomenon.

In your essay you will:

- Respond to the inquiry question that has guided your research throughout the unit.
- Analyze visual and textual details and use secondary sources as lenses to further this analysis.
- Put your secondary sources in conversation by considering how they illuminate the music video's images, lyrics, and composition in different ways.
- Show command of the evolving thesis by concluding your essay with a compelling claim that has become more complex over the course of the essay. Above all else, your thesis should evolve in complexity and should offer a claim about how the music video represents an issue, context, figure, or phenomenon.
- Use style and voice to demonstrate rhetorical awareness of the assignment's audience and purpose, making use of the expectations for academic writing, including transition phrases, attributive tags, strong verbs, appropriate word choice, and MLA citation format.

Process

- **Proposal and annotated bibliography, due April 14.** Begin your proposal with your inquiry question and working thesis. Compose a preliminary visual and textual analysis of a music video of your choosing. Identify at least four scholarly sources related to the social issue, question, or concern represented by your music video. Explain in 3–5 sentences for each source how it will support your proposed analysis of your music video.
- **Rough draft of essay, due April 21.** This rough draft must be a full draft, and include all of the above component parts, though it does not have to be pretty. Some ideas and style or grammar will likely require further revision, but this draft demonstrates substantial effort and progresss.
- **Peer Review of essay, in-class April 24.** You must participate in peer review in order for your final project to be complete. Come prepared to share your writing and provide substantial comments on your peers' inquiry questions, visual analysis, use of secondary sources, and evolving thesis.
- **Final paper, due April 28.** Your final paper should demonstrate revision according to peers' and my feedback. You will evaluate your project yourself and it will be evaluated by me according to the above requirements. Your paper will be accompanied by a 500-word process letter that narrativizes your thinking and learning over the course of the semester.