



Essay #3

Topic

The Assignment:

Arguably the central tenet in John Berger's "Ways of Seeing" is that history—as represented in works of art—can be manipulated and controlled. The understanding of Berger's thesis takes on added significance when the ramifications of that manipulation and control are addressed: "A people or class which is cut off from its own past is far less free to choose and to act as a people or class that has been able to situate itself in history." It is not, then, the discussion of art that is Berger's overriding concern, but more so the power structure that exercises control over history (through the manipulation of artwork), and the purpose for which they do.

Andy Wachowski's *The Matrix* curiously, too, offers its own conjecture regarding control over the masses. In describing the perfected pinnacle of control over society, Agent Smith, the chief antagonist, says relishingly: "Billions of people just living out their lives . . . oblivious." When the levers of power are invisible to the populace, as represented in the film, we do not even recognize the struggle, nor the "truth" in the Red Pill as opposed to the Blue.

For this topic, you are asked to examine the parallel themes and/or ideas that run across both works. Pay careful attention, for example, to Berger's terminology (Art Historian, Reproduction, Mystification, Classes and Hierarchies) and seek out their counterparts in the film as represented in the characters (Neo, Morpheus, Agent Smith, Cypher, etc.) or, even, "the matrix" itself. You need not discuss all of these, however. Think quality, not quantity. And you need not dwell in summary either, in your body paragraphs. Assume your reader knows the works well.

Thrice We Go Again.

Main Texts:

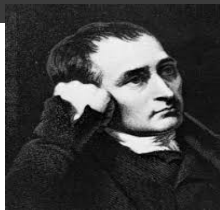
Berger's "Ways of Seeing"
Andy Wachowski's *The Matrix*

Rhetorical Mode:

Critical Analysis

Essay Topic Question:

HOW and/or WHY do John Berger's terms from "Ways of Seeing" (art historian, reproduction, mystification, classes & hierarchies) run parallel with the themes and ideas present in Andy Wachowski's *The Matrix*? Focus on specific characters and/or concepts from the film in your response.



The Scoring Rubric



The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

"How much do I write?"

~Just 3-4 pages this time, excluding the Works Cited page. Remember, also, the minimum page count warning. Anything less than 3 pages will incur a pro-rated deduction (i.e. – 2 pages complete = 33% deduction; 1 page complete = 66% deduction, and so on). So please tread lightly here.

"And if I need help?"

~Office hours. It's still free of charge.

1 Do you accept late papers yet?

This assignment may be submitted as a "rewrite" if you fail to submit by the original deadline. However, the max score is a 60 under this provision. Certainly not ideal. Not. At. All.

2 Anything else?

This assignment should prove more challenging than the previous two, given the disparate nature of the two main texts. But don't let that stop you from sharing on Instagram how much fun you're having while pining for "likes" on the Interweb.

** Rewrites . . .

No rewrite option for this one, unfortunately, because of how close to the semester finish line it's due.

I. Introduction

_____/10

_____/5 Thorough paragraph that introduces authors, texts and specifics of prompt.

_____/5 Clear, thoughtful thesis statement that address the assignment.

II. Body Paragraphs

_____/40

_____/10 Specific topic sentences that clearly advance thesis.

_____/10 Supporting quotes from Main Texts; proper signal phrasing and context.

_____/10 Supporting quotes from Main Texts analyzed and connected to thesis.

_____/10 Sustained, critical analysis of topic question; formal tone; 3rd person narrative.

III. Conclusion

_____/5

Summary of thesis; well-considered closing argument.

IV. Works Cited

_____/20

_____/5 2-3 database periodicals.

_____/5 Proper signal phrasing, context, segues and in-text citations.

_____/5 Sources explained and connected to topic sentences.

_____/5 Works Cited page in MLA format.

V. Grammar & Punctuation

_____/10

Proficiency demonstrated (limited run-ons, comma splices, fragments, etc.).

VI. Sentence Clarity

_____/10

Limited interference with ideas.

VII. MLA Format

_____/5

Times Roman font, 12 pt. font size, black ink,
double-spaced, proper spacing, indentation,
1" margins, heading, header, original title, et al.



Deductions:

Total: ____/100