

## Short Paper 2.3: Video as Contact Zone

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engl 131 / sec. A4 / winter quarter 2005-06 / chang



In the first sequence of assignments, you applied a cultural studies lens (as understood by writers like Brooks, Lippi-Green, and Lowe) to the analysis of self, images, video, and other cultural productions. With their concepts and methodologies in mind, consider the notion that an artifact, an image, or in this case, a video can represent, interrogate, and *be* a contact zone. How can a television sitcom or a primetime drama serve as contact zone? How can a documentary or the six o'clock news be a contact zone? How can a romantic comedy or animated film be a contact zone?

In class, you will be shown a short film or video. Using Pratt and the video as supporting evidence, develop a single clear and precise claim about one of the following:

- 1) if film or video is itself a contact zone, then analyze and express how the text you watched serves as a site, a place where cultures “meet, clash, and grapple”;
- 2) if film or video represents or documents contact zones in action, identify a compelling example of a contact zone in play in what you watched and then analyze how the film or video frames, constructs, edits the contact zone and how these rhetorical visual choices create conflict, critique, and meaning;
- 3) if film or video can record and show contact zones and can be a contact zone, then (in what would be called a meta-moment) how can the classroom where film or video is used be a contact zone.

Your short paper should be 2 to 3 pages and make a claim about video as contact zone. Limit also your impulse to just summarize or close read the video. The examples you pull from the essay and from the video should be brief and support your claim.

**Targeted outcomes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Turn in:** 2 to 3 pages, typed, no title page, double-spaced, stapled

**Due:** Thursday, May 11