

Short Paper 2.4: Major Paper Conference Memo

engl 131 / sec. A3 / spring quarter 2005-06 / chang



Almost two weeks ago, you were introduced to this sequence's final major paper assignment. Hopefully by this point, you have had a chance to read Pratt's essay a few times, you have had a chance to screen your film at least once, you have been researching your topic, and you have been focusing your final paper's main claim.

Continue to work on your main claim. What is your goal, your exigence for this paper? What question are you asking about your film? What do you think your image is "doing" in terms of the cultural and identificatory interventions we have been talking about in class? How does your film function to represent a contact zone as well as function as a contact zone?

What does your film tell us—the audience of your film and your analysis—about ourselves, our culture, our world? What does it tell us about things like race, class, sex, gender, sexuality, nationality, history, celebrity, power, education, and so on? Obviously, you are not going to be able to write about everything you discover. Choose what is most interesting, most compelling to you. Also choose what you can support with Pratt, McBride, Lippi-Green, Lowe, and your outside research.

For your conference, prepare a 1-page memo written to me that:

- 1) expresses your final paper's main claim and explains why you believe it to be a reasonable and viable argument.
- 2) supplements your claim with two or three quotes that help elaborate where your final paper is going; do not be afraid to be intertextual, to use all of the readings from both the first and second sequence.
- 3) briefly outlines your paper and possible sub-claims.
- 4) raises any specific questions you may have about your claim, your analysis, or your research.

You may also want to supplement your explanation with what additional research you have found. Be certain to identify your film that you wish to write about. Be prepared to discuss your memo and your paper at your conference.

Targeted outcomes: _____

Turn in: 1 page, memo format, typed, no title page, single-spaced

Due: at your major paper conference