

**P-16 Faculty Collaborative
Laredo, Texas
26 March 2011**

What is a Critical Analysis?

Topic: The aesthetic or ethical values of human-technology.

Content: For primary sources, you will use two of the visual media, and as secondary sources, you will use both of the assigned readings. (NOTE: This will vary depending upon grade-level.)

Purpose: The purpose of this kind of writing is to get you to write a formal, reader-centered essay that contains “academic” qualities. Among those qualities are: an interpretation of primary sources (in this case, the artwork, film clip, and news clip) that is supported by specific components or examples from that sources (i.e., the elements of visual media), the incorporation of secondary sources (ideas from experts in the field of inquiry), and the composition of a well-balanced analysis of how all these components come together into a coherent, logical, and insightful understanding of the issues raised by the sources. In our case, what are the aesthetic or ethical values that emerge from an analysis of the texts we have been examining?

Goals: Your goal is to analyze the materials, using a critical lens rather than a personal lens, and examine how the primary texts show the authors’ aesthetic or ethical value of the human-technology connection. In making an interpretation, you may be drawn to choose only those elements in the texts that support your own beliefs; however, this kind of essay requires that you put those intentions aside, that you step-back from personal reactions, and focus, instead, on how the authors’ texts are leading us to an interpretation (which may or may not be in alignment with our own). This kind of writing is not asking you to take a stand for or against the merging of humans and technology; it is asking you to concern yourself solely with how the sources are interpreting the merging of the two.

Features: The features of this form are very “academic” and formal. You will not use “I” in this writing, for your opinion is not the focus; you will use the third person. You will provide a written account of what is contained in the visuals as a way of providing evidence and support of how the primary source authors have interpreted the aesthetics or ethical value of the human-technology connection. You also will quote directly from the secondary sources, citing correctly and accurately, using MLA documentation style. You will have a main focus in your essay, and this is typically found within the first paragraph or two. You will go well beyond the 5-paragraph essay format, for the 5-paragraph essay limits the depth needed for this kind of analysis; however, the essay will still be organized in a logical way (smooth movement from one point to the next), and the development of your essay will be rich in detail and explanation.

Parameters: MLA documentation style and document design. 1200 words (app. 5 pages). (NOTE: This will vary depending upon grade-level.)

Due: April 9

Assessment: See Rubric.