

VISUAL ANALYSIS

Due Feb. 7th

COMPOSITION 1



Our culture is saturated with visual images that we are subject to on a daily basis. Advertisements, newspapers, television, invitations, basically the entire Internet--all of these rely to some degree on visual rhetoric to communicate. Because of this, our ability to decode the messages aimed at us is extremely important.

For your first composition, you'll develop critical thinking skills by analyzing an image. Remember that analysis means breaking something down into its parts in order to better understand the whole. You'll select a panel, series of panels, or page from a comic book, either one we've read together or one you've read on your own. You are not limited to Marvel comics for this assignment. Keep in mind that you'll

need to choose an image that is complex enough to invite detailed analysis. It might be helpful to think of an issue or concept you're interested in. For example, if you are interested in representations of gender or race, you might look for a panel/page that seems to represent gender or race in an interesting way. Your objective will be to determine what the image communicates about the issue or concept and how it communicates. Remember that sometimes what is not there is as important as what is there.

- POSSIBLE ISSUES + CONCEPTS**
- * RACE
 - * GENDER
 - * BODY IMAGE
 - * PATRIOTISM/NATIONALISM
 - * GOVERNMENT
 - * WAR
 - * DISABILITY
 - * THE MILITARY
 - * CIVIL SERVANTS
 - * SCIENCE
 - * JUSTICE
 - * THE LAW

This composition will take the form of an academic paper approximately 4 pages (around 1200 words) in length. Your audience for this paper will be your academic peers, and you will follow MLA formatting to demonstrate your understanding of academic writing conventions. You should plan to include the image in your paper, and I encourage you to use find creative ways to incorporate the image to support and enhance your argument.

Process

- Select an image
- Write down everything you notice about the image
- Identify the rhetorical situation of the image
- Develop an analytical question
- Develop a composition plan
- Compose and revise analysis
- Workshop

Basic Features of a Visual Analysis:

- Clearly identified subject (image)
- Clear thesis statement regarding what message the image communicates
- A convincing argument that shows how the image communicates that message through a careful consideration of individual components of the image
- Adequate description of specific features of the image
- Sufficient contextual information about the image to support your claim

Learning Objectives

This assignment requires you to think critically about how images communicate. You will build and deploy rhetorical knowledge, both in analyzing the image and in crafting your composition. You will learn to develop your ideas thoroughly and create a focused, consistent argument. You will improve writing and revising skills.

Grading

Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does the student take satisfactory steps to plan, create, and revise this composition?
Rhetorical Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does the student demonstrate a sophisticated awareness of audience?- Does the student develop her or his ethos appropriately?- Is the composition organized and arranged effectively?- Has the student made an effective argument?- Does the student demonstrate an understanding of the genre and conventions?
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the text in this composition stylistically interesting and sophisticated?- Does the writer transition smoothly between ideas and paragraphs?- Does the format of the text adhere to conventions of the genre and medium?- Is the writing free of grammar and spelling errors?- Does the writer grab readers' attention in the beginning?- Does the writer effectively conclude the text?
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the design of this composition appropriate to the content and genre conventions?- Does the visual rhetoric of the design support the rhetoric of the written text?- Is the design appealing?- Does the student use the medium well?
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Does the student develop a clear, thesis-driven argument about what message the selected image communicates?- Does the composition convincingly show how the image communicates that message through various components?- Does the student provide sufficient evidence to support his or her assertions?- Are all ideas fully developed?
Basic Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Did the student select a panel, series of panels, or page from a comic book that engage(s) an issue or concept?- Does the argument focus on that issue?- Is the paper approximately 4 pages (1200 words)?- Does student use MLA format for the paper?