

ESSAY 2:

REPORTING: What Does Media Mean to Others?

DUE:	MEDIA APPROVAL via email due by 5 OCT 2020 POLISHED DRAFT due 18 OCT 2020 FINAL DRAFT due 25 OCT 2020
LENGTH:	600 - 750 words (2 1/2 - 3 pp.)
SUBMISSION METHOD:	upload to submission folders in iCollege
FILE NAME:	LASTNAME_E2_DRAFT.docx and LASTNAME_E2_FINAL.docx
100 points possible	

You like what you like, but what do your class peers think about it? Using the tactics discussed in class, this essay asks you to conduct a thorough interview with one classmate to get their take on the media that you believe is important. Once you have your data, you'll write a short article that reports the major findings from the interview and that indicates how you might use the interview data in future compositions.

OBJECTIVE: Compose a short essay that informs the audience about how a fellow classmate reacts to a piece of media that you identify as significant.

HOW: Choose a piece of media that you believe to be important for all GSU students to interact with. (*Choose wisely—you will also be working with this same piece of media for Essay 3 & 4!*) **You must get instructor approval for this media via email by 10/05/20—and no changing once it's been approved, so choose wisely.** Your instructor will randomly pair you with a classmate for this project, and you will interview one another about the media you've each selected.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you choose the media you want your interviewee to interact with:

- For this project, choose a piece of media that is easily shareable within the scope of this assignment. This means, for example, that you shouldn't pick an entire TV series—pick one episode or even just a clip, or one chapter, not a whole book. You also want to make sure it's something that your partner can access—it's YOUR responsibility to make sure that they can view your chosen media.
- Your interviewee may also be a devoted fan, may be a casual enjoyer, or may be completely new to the piece of media you've chosen—you'll need to check with them. If they ARE totally new, make sure that they are able to experience some of this media before or during the interview (watch some clips, listen to some parts of a song, read a few pages of a book).
- Create an interview plan that includes a formal set of questions. Spend a good bit of time crafting questions that will get the best and most relevant information from the interviewee. You'll need to email with your partner to set up how you will carry out the interview—via phone, Zoom, FaceTime, or in-person (but responsibly socially distanced!). Plan to record the conversation if possible (but make sure you have their consent first!) AND to take notes as you interview.
- After interviewing, listen back/ rewatch the interview and analyze your notes, and use these to generate a thesis statement that presents the major findings of the interview.

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- Write a report that presents this thesis statement. Use data from the interview to support the thesis. **The essay is not a narrative of your experience of interviewing.** The essay should use details from the interview to present your findings.
- Consider the following suggestions/ questions as you compose your essay:
 - ▶ You'll want to offer the reader a little bit of context about the piece of media you chose (this is good material for the introduction).
 - ▶ Offer some context for your interview subject's prior knowledge of this media. Did your interviewee know this media before?
 - ▶ Your subject's reaction may differ from yours. It might be a useful tactic to identify these differences of opinion. Did your interviewee change your perception of this media in any way?
 - ▶ Did their reaction surprise you? Confuse you? It might help to consider what your expectations may have been prior to the interview.
 - ▶ You were asked to choose a piece of media that you think has importance. Did your interviewee seem to find this media important as well?

REQUIREMENTS: A 600 - 750 word report that includes:

- An instructor-approved work/piece of media.
- A thesis statement summarizing your findings from the interview.
- Evidence to support your claim that comes from your interview (e.g. direct quotes from interviewees, summaries of their stories/explanations)
- A coherent organizational structure (includes introduction and conclusion)
- MLA citation for all sources in attached Works Cited page
- Proofreading and MLA formatting
- A set of interview questions that you used for this assignment, included as an appendix.

GRADING CRITERIA:

- ❖ There is a clear hypothesis/claim/position statement that helps readers understand how your interviewee reacted to/ feels about a piece of media (20%)
- ❖ Essay includes detailed evidence from the interview to support the claim (e.g. direct quotes from interviewee, summaries of their stories/explanations, etc.) (30%)
- ❖ Essay has a coherent organizational structure including an introduction and conclusion that supports the claim (20%)
- ❖ A list of interview questions that the writer used is included in an appendix at the end of the essay (10%)
- ❖ Essay follows correct MLA 8th Edition format, including Works Cited page (10%)
- ❖ Essay conforms to academic standards for grammar and mechanics (10%)