

Unit Three – Humanities: Representations of Memory
Research and Analysis Paper

Purpose:

- To formulate a thesis based upon close reading of one or more texts.
- To find and evaluate outside sources.
- To effectively synthesize sources into your paper.
- To demonstrate your ability to structure a clear and effective essay.

Topic:

As life becomes increasingly digital, our cameras, our televisions, even our coffee makers have **memory**. As **computerized memory** becomes ubiquitous, the status of **human memory** becomes increasingly subject to scrutiny. Questions arise about the **verity** of memory or about where one **draws the line** between one's digitized and one's "real" memories. Your challenge for paper three is to analyze the artistic representation of memory in one or more texts or artworks. Your goal, as a cultural critic, is to understand what the film/story/poem/art installation/object says about memory and to speculate on why it matters.

Option 1: Write a 4 – 6 page analysis of one or more texts based upon close reading and outside research.

Option 2: Write a 3 – 4 page short story and 3 – 4 page analysis of your story. The story should address the subject of memory and should incorporate the themes that have surfaced during readings and in-class discussion. The accompanying analysis should explain how the story connects to the themes and readings and should also reflect on the medium of the short story as a means of communication.

Readings: See the online course schedule

Requirements:

- For the essay: 4 – 6 pages; For the story/analysis: 6 – 8 pages; Both options should be double spaced; 12-point Times font; 1-inch margins all the way around
- Use a minimum of two outside sources to support your analysis.
- MLA-style in-text citations and works cited list
- All work submitted on time in an electronic portfolio. No late work will be accepted.

Grading Breakdown (25 points possible):

- Preparatory Activities: 5 points
- Final Draft: 20 points (See the grading rubric on the course website).

Topic Proposal, due Mon 12/4: The proposal should indicate which text(s) you plan to analyze, which outside sources you intend to utilize, etc. The proposal may or may not include a tentative thesis but at the very minimum it should give the reader a robust understanding of what your paper will be about. Why have you chosen a certain text(s)? If you are using more than one text, what is the relationship between them? Which aspects of a text will receive your focus – characters, themes, etc? Topic proposals should be written in well-organized paragraphs and should fall somewhere between 300 – 500 words.

Annotated Bibliography, due Wed 12/6: This paper requires that you complete outside research. As a means of helping you organize and assess your research, an annotated bibliography of a minimum of 5 secondary sources is required. Secondary sources may be on the subject of memory or may critically address a text. It is unlikely that you will use all of these sources in your paper; in fact, you may not end up using any, but the bibliography is a means for you to start the research process. In order to be effective, annotations should be a minimum of 75 words. Bibliographic material should be in MLA format.

Peer Review: Peer review for Unit Three is optional. If you wish to receive feedback on your paper before turning it in, make arrangements with your peer review partner. Although it is optional, any completed peer review should be submitted as part of your electronic portfolio.

Electronic Portfolio: As you complete preparatory activities and drafts, you will be building an electronic portfolio in the course wiki. Before posting your first journal, you should create a wiki article entitled “*Your Name* Unit Three Portfolio.” The article should be sub-divided into sections: Topic Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Peer Review (optional), and Final Paper. Additionally, the article should be placed into the categories “*Your Name*,” “All Pages,” and “Unit Three.” By the time the final draft is posted, your portfolio will show the genesis and evolution of your paper, from start to finish. For information on how to create an article, add sections, or add categories, see the course website.

Final draft due Wednesday, Dec. 13. Post in class wiki by 11:59 p.m.