

Dear 21W.730 Students:

We have three drafts to review for our writing workshop the first class after break (Tues. 4/3). By this point in the term, you know the process, so I'll be brief !

Before reading the drafts, you may find it helpful to review the essay "prompt". After reviewing each essay, type a letter to each writer (copies for me.) As in previous workshops, your letters should discuss a few **specific** strong points in each draft, and a few **specific** aspects that need work.

Here are some particular questions for essay #2:

1. In what ways does the introduction engage you as a reader? Does the type of introduction (theoretical, narrative, personal) seem appropriate to the argument? Does the writer articulate a clear thesis about the subject's relationship to the mass media ? If not, are there elements of a thesis-in-development?

2. Do you feel that the writer quotes too much or too little from the interview subject? Are the quotations well chosen and effectively placed within the essay? Does the writer interpret the language of the interview closely to support an argument about the subject's relationship to the mass media ? When you look at the excerpted quotes from the interview transcript, do you read any other meaning(s) ? Do you see the need for a follow-up interview before revising?

3. Has the writer used secondary sources such as Postman, Caughey, Ewen and Schudson effectively to interpret the subject ? Are the quotations from secondary sources well chosen and appropriately placed? Are there any additional secondary sources from the course that the writer might have used either to support an argument or present a counterargument? What other types of secondary sources might the author consult?

4. Is the draft clearly **organized** so that you can follow the movement of thought ? Are there any sections, paragraphs or sentences that need reordering?

5. Does the ending of the essay fulfill the goals of a conclusion: (a) dynamically restate the argument and/or (b) open up larger questions that flow from this study ?

6. Comment on the sentence-level writing; suggest areas for improvement.

Thanks for your hard work. See you in class on Tuesday 4/3.

Andrea Walsh