

## English 345: Cine/Technology Article Critique Writing Workshop

### Thesis Issues

- 1) **Thesis offers an analysis of the film** rather than an assessment of the article. Generally, tentative theses that concentrated on the film tended to make claims regarding the film's meaning, with the unarticulated assumption that the article author misread the film. While you may raise an alternative interpretation of the film, you need to do so within the context of evaluating the article. How does the author's overall argument represent a misinterpretation of the film (or how do certain sub-claims present misreadings)? Given the author's arguments, why is your reading one the article legitimately should have examined?
- 2) **Thesis focuses on the article's applicability to significant cultural issues** instead of to a specific film. Such tentative theses took up the article author's arguments in terms of how they applied to current conditions (for example, Telotte's article encourages us to consider our complexities or the nature of the self in the contemporary era; the social issues Kerman raises may or may not exist today). While several of the articles we read placed films within a larger cultural context, your critique must address the main content of the article: the author's analysis of the film. For example, do the social and political problems Kerman cites have parallels in *Blade Runner*, as she argues? Are the correspondences as convincing as she claims? Are you convinced by Telotte's contention that the *Terminator* films lead us to look for a "real" self beneath a socially constructed surface, or do the films themselves suggest the difficulty of distinguishing a core self?
- 3) **The critique writer's thesis is not clearly differentiated from the article author's** or does not represent an assessment of the article's strengths/weaknesses. When writers tended to agree with the article author's overall argument, their theses basically repeated points made in the article instead of presenting a claim regarding the article's strengths. Make sure that you communicate an evaluation of the article. Does the article offer persuasive, effectively supported arguments? How does it contribute to a particular audience's understanding of the film?
- 4) **Thesis is vague.** Such tentative theses left important terms undefined. If you contend that an article author does not elaborate on key points or presents a superficial argument, you need to list those points or describe why the argument is superficial.

### Evidence Issues

- 1) **Critique writers found it difficult to support arguments about an article's strengths** without simply summarizing the article. While evidence regarding an article's strengths will summarize convincing evidence or paraphrase valid arguments, you may also support your assessment of strengths by explaining how a particular audience benefits from the article's contents. You can also point to aspects of the film not discussed in the article, but to which the article's argument applies.
- 2) **Writers did not cite adequate evidence** to support their assessment of the article. Remember that you must support your analysis, particularly if you're taking an article author to task for ineffective explanation or support. If, for example, you want to argue that Maland is vague on historical context, then you need to point out the context he ignores or does not fully explain.