Assignment
For this assignment, you will analyze narrative or visual form in either The Royal Tenenbaums or Sherlock, Jr. Your overall goal is to examine how form and narrative create meaning. You may write on one of the following topics:

1) As John Belton argues, “As a mass form, the genre of comedy works to release that which society as a whole tries to hold in check. In short, whatever a society represses frequently returns in the form of comedy to taunt it” (170). Does Belton’s argument apply to Sherlock, Jr. or The Royal Tenenbaums? How does the film use repetition, variation and/or contrast to point to the repressed or to convey other symptomatic meanings?

2) How does Sherlock, Jr. use visual or narrative structure to make a particular commentary on technology?

3) How does a significant repeated or contrasting element in The Royal Tenenbaums or Sherlock Jr. (images, lines of dialogue, similar/opposing scenes) function in the film? How does the element work to develop character, define motivations, or convey meanings?

4) When discussing narrative, Dr. Bean asked how structure cues us to interpret a film. Focusing on either The Royal Tenenbaums or Sherlock, Jr., discuss how narrative structure functions to convey implicit or symptomatic meaning. You may concentrate on a few key moments (for example, the beginning, middle, and ending), or you may examine several instances of an overall pattern of ordering plot information.

Guidelines and Expectations
1) Although I have provided questions, you will need to develop an argument. A successful essay will pose a clear, defendable argument regarding the function of the film’s visual or narrative form and develop that argument over the course of the essay. Rather than offering a catalogue of your observations on the film's form or narrative, the essay will make an argument about those elements' function.

2) Remember that you are writing to an audience who has viewed the films. Therefore, you do not need to summarize the plot. Instead, you should incorporate summary,
3) Do not forget the rich discussion that has taken place in class and on the electronic bulletin board. A review of your notes and the postings on a particular film may help you to ask key questions and shape your analysis.

4) When describing a film's plot or stylistic techniques, use the present tense (for example, "Margot plays records in Richie's tent," or "the frame narrows to reveal the first line: ‘Search Everybody.’").

5) If you're having difficulty devising an approach to the essay, or if you want to discuss ideas-in-progress, come to my office hours or email me to set up an appointment.

Grading
I will use the attached grading rubric to evaluate this essay. Failure to submit an essay draft will result in a 10-point deduction from the final grade, as revising from feedback constitutes an essential part of the essay assignment. Late essay revisions will receive a 10-point deduction per day late, including weekends and holidays. I will make exceptions to the lateness policy only in cases of documented illness or family emergency. Please remember that technology glitches do not constitute valid excuses for lateness.