

Long Paper 2 – Analyzing an Adaptation – Due during final exam period (Tuesday, May 10, 12:00 noon)

For your final paper, you'll be combining the materials that you've been working on over the course of the semester. Taking your familiarity with both an original text and the criticism surrounding it, you'll be making an argument about how your adaptation compares/relates to the original.

The goal here is explore the relationship between the adaptation and the original by considering the critical environment for both. What did people say about the original? How does your adaptation relate or respond to that critical conversation? What have people said about the adaptation?

So, essentially, you'll have several layers of "they say" in your paper. Thinking about what critics have said regarding the original, and your own reading of the original, what is the adaptation *doing*? Is it a re-telling that answers some of the original critics? Is it a contemporary commentary on some issue raised in the original? What are critics saying about the adaptation, and how does your view fit in with that conversation?

You will need to be sure that you are making a claim about what the adaptation is doing (answering the "so what" question) instead of falling into the trap of value judgment. Telling me that Gilman's *Dollhouse* makes the story more compelling for modern audiences is tantamount to telling me that, "it's better." However, telling me that by updating the story for modern audiences, Gilman critiques contemporary culture – tells me what the adaptation is doing (and hence the "why it matters").

In terms what this kind of argument might look like, here's one potential model for structure:

Critic's of Shakespeare's original play said X.
This adaptation responds to those critics by doing Y.
Other critics have said Z about this adaptation, and I agree/disagree (thesis)
 In the original A and B happen
 In the adaptation B and C happen
 Therefore, by adding C, the adaptation does Y
 Critics have said Z about Y, and my analysis is Z+ or Z-

Or, another way to structure your discussion would be:

Critic's of Shakespeare's original play said X.
This adaptation responds to those critics by doing Y. (thesis)
 In the original A and B happen
 In the adaptation B and C happen
 Therefore, by adding C, the adaptation does Y
Other critics have said Z about this adaptation, and I agree/disagree/say okay, but

Or, you're welcome to come up with another structure for your paper – it will depend a lot on your argument. Regardless, you'll want to start by thinking through what your adaptation is doing. Is it a transposition? A commentary? An analogue? Why might the playwright/director have chosen to reinterpret the text in this way? What does the new version achieve that the original did not? Or, if it's fairly similar, what does this version add? How does it interpret the characters in a way that is surprising or different? What are the choices that matter in this production?

You'll need to find at least three new sources for this paper, though you're welcome to also include critical sources from your previous papers. If there are academic articles available on your adaptation, I encourage you to use them. If, however, your adaptation is so new that little has been written in academic journals, then look for reviews of the film in *print* sources.

Minimum Assignment Requirements (for a C or above):

- Be formatted according to MLA guidelines (1-inch margins, last name and page number in the header, no more than 12 point font)
 - Include your own title – not just “long paper 2” – that offers insight into the paper's content
 - Include a separate “Works Cited” page with bibliographic citations for three secondary sources and your version of the original text
 - Include appropriate parenthetical citations within the paper
- Three new secondary (critical) sources
 - These must have appeared in print (in some capacity) – so reviews from *Entertainment Weekly* or *The New York Times* are fair game, but those on rottentomatoes.com are not (at least, not to fulfill the requirement – if you find relevant materials, you are welcome to include credible, online sources in addition to the three print sources required)
- 6-8 page analysis – double spaced
 - Introduction with a thesis that indicates how your argument contributes to the conversation and how your paper will be structured
 - Discussion of the “they say” surrounding the adaptation (and original, if applicable)
 - Evidence from the film to support your points
 - Some connections between the adaptation and the original
 - Conclusion that reminds your reader of your main points and how they fit into the conversation about the adaptation/original
- Smooth integration of sources and quotations
- Use appropriate paragraphing, grammar, and spelling; be free of egregious typos
- Posted to Pathbrite by the end of the finals period for the course – Tuesday, May 10th 12:00, noon