

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL ESSAYS IN PS 101

Your essay should tie your explanations of the primary and secondary topic into an ARGUMENT providing examples from the movie. This means your paper SHOULD HAVE

- *have an introduction, a main body and a conclusion.* Aim for an essay of at least five paragraphs, with your thesis included in the introduction, your analysis summarized in the conclusion and 2-3 body paragraphs that explain your topic and subtopic with examples.
- *have a clear THESIS STATEMENT in your introduction.* The introduction explains the question and the thesis statement should summarize your answer. A really good introduction will ask a question that is more specific than the question of the assignment.
- *be well organized.* Each paragraph should discuss a distinct topic, or part of a topic, and have a topic sentence that says what the paragraph is about
- *provide clear definitions of the key concepts identified in the prompt.* Draw on readings and class to define any concept you are discussing.

Your essay is about politics and power, using the film to illustrate it, not about the film itself.

- DO
- NOT
- try to cover all possible topics: focus on one primary and one secondary topic
 - simply provide a list of observations from the film: explain what they show.
 - discuss the artistic merits of the film: this is a course on politics.
 - summarize the plot at length: this is an essay about power.

Your essay is an academic essay for an academic college class.

- DO
- use appropriate language, not colloquialisms, informal expressions or slang
 - employ proper grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - make some references to class readings to show you have read them
 - use proper citations using either APA or MLA format when required (see below)
 - have a list of references or bibliography which includes class readings or lecture slides
 - have a proper title or subtitle that conveys your thesis statement.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. This means

- You are free to exchange ideas with classmates and to offer suggestions on each other's drafts but your writing should be done on your own. *Suggestions from the instructor or the tutor do not need to be specifically cited.*
- Any ideas taken from another source should be clearly indicated in a footnote.
- Any direct quotations from any source including the film should be inside quotation marks
- Any direct OR PARAPHRASED quotations from any source (other than the film) needs to have an appropriate reference indicating the source. (You do not need to provide a source for material from the film as long as your essay states that it is from the film.)

Your paper must meet the format guidelines given below. *3 points will be deducted for each item not met.*

- Be TYPED in 12 pt font, double spaced, with one-inch margins and have page numbers.
- Be submitted to Moodle with a filename that follows the format given in the prompt
- Be submitted in hard copy in addition to the electronic format.
- Have your name below the title
- Include the following information below your name: