To Dr. Belli,

This project has been stressing to say the least. Mostly due to the problems of trying to narrow down a topic that is intrinsically large in scale. When you want to discuss constructs that can exceed the diameter of the galaxy or even the universe, where do you start? I tried to think in terms of how macrostrucutres interplay with reality, then I tried to just talk about it within the context of Science Fiction alone. Just when I thought I had dug my own grave in choosing this topic, I fell back and tried to think of why I initially got interested in this topic. Then it hit me, that I had no idea. Why do these objects of immense size and unknown origin appeal to me? Why do they appeal to other people? More interestingly why do these concepts continue to interest modern generations, just as they have in the past? So I dug around and found and article in the encyclopedia of science fiction online, about “Big Dumb Objects”. I honestly feel I don't do enough justice in trying to find this answer. However I do feel I have shed some light, at least for me, as to why macrostructures and BDOs give readers and viewers a “sense of wonder” and continue to do so.

At first I had envisioned the research paper to look very procedural, as at the time I was just concentrating on the objects themselves. Going by my last research paper, I would start with smaller scale macrostrucutres such as the Arcology. Then move on to structures in space, such as the Ringworld and Dyson Sphere. I hit a dead end at that point since I had no over arching goal to talking about these structures. So I restructured the paper to simply talk about what these objects give reader in science fiction, their purpose, and why the concept has stayed relevant throughout the years.

I start off with I structure the introduction to state that BDOs and macrostructures have a profound effect on readers and viewers in ways I had initially not thought of. BDOs in addition to appealing to consumer imagination and curiosity, they also touch upon deeper areas of psychology, ego, and philosophy, transcendence, as well as pushing the limits of scientific possibility. I go on to talk about the background of the terminology of BDOs and macrostructures, following that up with the scope of what a BDO entails. Lastly I cover the limitations and paradoxes of BDOs in science fiction, their possibility in the future, and why consumers will never get tired of the BDO.

If anything the most important aspect of this project that I appreciate, is that it gave me the ability to put a reason behind why I am so fascinated with BDOs and macrostructures. The research has given me a clearer understanding of the topic and reinforced my appreciation for it. The ability to embody sensitive topics such as existentialism, transcendence, ego, and philosophy in terms of a technological marvel is pretty remarkable. On the down side, as I've mentioned above, I may have chose a topic that is too extensive to condense. My final paper feels unfinished as I there is a lot more I could have said on the topic. In conclusion, it was a love-hate relationship with this paper due to constraints in time and requirements.