

Final Essay Details: Using the handout on Five types of Ethics and/or the handout on Empathy, write an essay in which you explore ethical issues or empathy issues as they cross media boundaries. The main questions to answer are: how does ethics and/or empathy change or stay the same when a written narrative is translated into film? Further, what lessons does the reader/viewer learn across the media types. Do the lessons change with the translation?

Text and Film Pairs:

Othello, William Shakespeare (1604)
Othello, Dir. Oliver Parker (1995)
O, Dir. Tim Blake Nelson (2001)

Life of Pi, Yann Martel (2001)
Life of Pi, Dir. Ang Lee (2012)

Helpful Ideas:

1. Select one of the above pairs, not both. Students may select to write about either *Othello* film, or both.
2. Be sure to briefly define the type/types of ethics/empathy for the text/film that you select by quoting from our handout.
3. Select a small number of specific scenes or shots in which characters make decisions that have ethical or empathic impact. Briefly introduce/describe the scenes and characters and ethical/empathic importance. Be careful to avoid summarizing too much.
4. Students should consider how film and literary techniques work. Film techniques can convey ethics: close-up, camera movement, shot composition, framing, color, music, dramatic irony, etc. And literary techniques can convey ethics/empathy: narrator, narration style, word choices, sarcasm, tone, or irony, etc.
5. Above all, make sure that your essay makes an argument about how ethics/empathy differs between the text and film version. For example, students might consider if a central character seems less empathetic in the film version (or the text version). Another example: students might consider how women are treated in the two versions. Another example: is one version more violent (or more romantic)?
6. Do not use outside sources; I want to see how you engage with our class material and discussions.

Rubric:

1. A clear introduction, title, thesis, and method (25 points)
2. Concrete nouns, clear sentences, clear paragraphs, word count, and proofreading (25 points)
3. Accurate reading and examination of texts/scenes and at least four direct quotes from the texts, films, or handouts. Accurate in-text citations. (25 points)
4. Clear use of selected terms: ethics handout, empathy handout, five-part reading tool, film analysis handout, class notes (25 points)

Length: 900 words (use word count)

Due Dates:

Thursday, May 20: Posted to Blackboard. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. EARLY PAPERS ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED.