

ES.022 MOVIE ESSAY OVERVIEW
FALL 2012

EXPLAIN (1) TEAMWORK AND (2) THE IMPLICATIONS OF NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION
IN THE MOVIE *STAGECOACH*

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Movie Essay 1: What does the movie tell YOU about teamwork? This essay will be revised perhaps twice. Movie Essay 2: From the point of view of the camera (and microphone), what does non-verbal communication in *Stagecoach* tell you about being human. This essay will be revised extensively in the coming months.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Movie Essay 1 supports the reading on teamwork and promotes reflection about situation on a team. Movie Essay 2 promotes awareness of non-verbal communication & its effects. It is also an introduction to the textual analysis genre. Analysis of texts is likely to appear as part of your HASS workload at MIT and is of relevance in the design process because it can provide a deeper understanding of customers and competitors.

PROCESS SUGGESTIONS

- Start with YOUR impressions; what do you think? Essay 1 need go no further; use of the first person is not forbidden. Essay 2 requires a transfer from your impressions to a data driven analysis of non-verbal communication from the point of view of the camera—from this point of view, what does the footage tell you about being human? (That’s why it’s called a humanities class). Use first person sparingly or not at all.
- For each essay, identify a clear contention at the end of your first (or possibly second) paragraph. Contentions may sometimes be found in resolving a paradox or answering a question whose answer is not obvious. Then explain how you will support the contention (guiding text).
- When you have written your drafts, review the movie again. Do the parts of the movie you have used to support your arguments do so? Do so more than you thought? Rework your ideas accordingly.
- Being human covers a lot of ground, so follow the design process to better focus your efforts. Do some brainstorming about what non-verbal elements are found in the movie and what aspects there are of being human. Where do these elements and aspects overlap? What theory/theories (wiki, your own model of how non-verbal communication affects things...) bear on non-verbal communication. Choose a direction to pursue based on some selection criteria. PREP your theories and the evidence that supports your theories with your classmates.

Movie essay workflow, roughly in order of occurrence

activity	deliverables	due dates
watch movie	attend; keep eyes open	Oct. 5 (in class)
FRDPARRC essays	FRDPARRC tables, 1 for the teamwork essay and 3 concepts for the humanistic essay. Your functional requirement is to support your contention; the DPs are your arguments. Analysis, research, risks, and countermeasures are all appropriate.	For class on Oct 16
show the movie	informally explain your contention about non-verbal communication and show two film clips as evidence supporting your contention(s)	Oct 19 (in class)
essay drafts 1	write two essay drafts, one that explains what you’ve learned about teamwork from the movie (~2 pages), and one that explains what non-verbal communication tells you about being human (~3 pages).	Oct. 23 (for class)
essays, draft 2	revise essay 1; ~3 pages revise essay 2; ~5 pages	Nov. 6 (before class)
PREP	share essay 2, draft 2 with your classmates for comment; be sure that Dave has a copy of the review comments you provide for your peers.	Nov. 9 (done in class)
essay 2, draft 3	based on peer feedback, revise again; ~5 pages	Nov. 13ish
essay 2, draft N	further drafting may be required	make sure this is finished before the thanksgiving holiday