SEPTMBER ESSAY: GRAPHIC TECHNIQUES IN PERSEPOLIS

Weighting: 15%  
Due date: 28 September

Purpose: This task has two objectives: getting you to think analytically about how Satrapi is using graphic techniques to express her ideas; and then demonstrate your understanding of the components and conventions of essay writing by communicating your thoughts within correct essay format.

Learning objectives highlighted:

• Students will engage in the writing process, including drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading, considering clarity, purpose, audience, and style.  
  This task will require you to work through the essay writing process step by step.

• Students will develop an awareness of the proper structure, genre, and conventions for different rhetorical situations.  
  Through completing this task, you should become familiar with the structure and conventions of essays.

• Students will hone critical reading and thinking skills.  
  This task will require you to communicate the ideas about Satrapi’s uses of techniques that you collected while completing the Glossary Project.

• Students will exit with an awareness of their strengths and weaknesses as writers, and the self-assessment tools necessary to continue on successfully in their writing careers.  
  Feedback that you receive throughout this task should help you become aware of areas that you particularly need to work on.

Audience: Firstly, you are writing this essay for an academic audience, which means that you should be writing in an academic style: using the conventions of the essay genre, expressing your ideas in formal language, referencing correctly, etc. Secondly, you are writing this essay for readers (your peers and myself) who are familiar with graphic techniques and with Satrapi’s story. Therefore you do not need to define any of the terms you use or retell the plot of Persepolis.

Length: 1500 words, i.e. 3 x 350-400 wd paragraphs plus introduction and conclusion.

Rubric: See attached rubric.

The Assignment:

Your essay question:

Satrapi’s Persepolis is a graphic novel. Explain how Satrapi’s use of techniques from this genre affects how she tells her story.

We will have three half-sessions in class on five different types of graphic techniques:

9/14  (1) Shot Types and (2) Camera Movement
9/19  (3) Layout and (4) Narrative
9/21  (5) Combinations and Abstraction

In class, and for homework, you will complete a Graphical Techniques Glossary on all of these five types, which will familiarize you with the techniques in each of these categories and help you to think about the effects of these techniques.

For your essay, you only need to write about THREE of these types: (A) Shot Types OR Camera Movement, (B) Layout OR Narrative, and (C) Combinations and Abstraction.
As the secondary goal for this task is for you to demonstrate your understanding of the conventions of essay writing, at the same time we are learning about graphic techniques we will also be learning about the components that different parts of your essay should have and how to write in an appropriate academic style. You will be asked to write part of your essay each week and submit it the following week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
<th>HOMEWORK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/12 Writing Introductions</td>
<td>Write Introduction for Essay 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14 The Parts of a Paragraph</td>
<td>Write Paragraph 1 (Shot Types OR Camera Movement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19 Purpose and Audience</td>
<td>Write Paragraph 2 (Layout OR Narrative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/21 Sequencing and Transitions</td>
<td>Write Paragraph 3 (Combinations &amp; Abstraction)</td>
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| 9/26 Handout on Writing Conclusions | Write Conclusion  
Revise previous pieces  
ESSAY 1 & PROJECT 1 DUE NEXT CLASS |

In order to make it easier to pull your ideas together within a paragraph, you may find it useful to choose technique examples from *Persepolis* that are connected in some way: perhaps within the same chapter, or segment of story, or on the same theme.

For your final submission, you will need to hand in all your drafts and working papers along with your final piece, in a named envelope style folder.