

**Short Assignment 2: The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*****Due Date: Wednesday, January 27th, 11:59pm***

Short Assignment 2 (SA2) builds on the refining of your rhetorical analysis skills, and guides you towards making for first complex argument. In this task, you will select a television program that you believe either supports or detracts from the arguments made in Steven Johnson's *Watching TV Makes You Smarter* (CI pgs. 648-658). Then, using Steven Johnson's text as reference (citing at least 2-3 quotes from the source text), dissect a scene from your selected television show that supports your claim for or against Johnson's assessments of the television genre. This will obviously be a narrow reflection on the subject matter (you're not all media studies students), but make your best case using the provided text and other research/evidence.

**Skills:** Collecting evidence, intertextuality, citation, formulating a line of inquiry, complex arguments, metacognition, recognizing genre conventions, academic writing

**Format:** 2-3 pages for SA2 and a 1-page reflection paper (12 point Times New Roman, double spaced), MLA formatting

**Task:**

- Effectively analyze genre (O1)
- Make a complex claim about that genre and its effectiveness within a certain context (O3)
- Discuss audience (O1)
- Utilize rhetorical techniques (O1)
- Make a complex claim (O3)
- Provide citation (O2)
- Collection of evidence (O2)

**Guided Questions:** When writing your paper, it may be useful to ask yourself certain questions to aid in the "creative" process. The questions below can be used as a guideline for creating the complex claims to use in your paper. Please note: this is **NOT** a comprehensive list. Nor must you answer all the questions below. Ask these questions as a **line of inquiry**, or, in other words, as a tool for **analysis and creating claims**.

- Who is the audience?
- What's the genre of your television program? How does this speak to the show's intended audience?
- What is the tone of the scene you have chosen, and its purpose (does it fall into one of Aristotle's appeals)?
- In what ways are Johnson's arguments valid/invalid?
- What evidence does Johnson use to support his arguments? What are potential counterarguments to his claim?