

## **Critical Essay One: Responding to an Academic Argument**

### **Due Dates**

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday: First Draft due in Blackboard and emailed to TA and peer review groups before Tuesday class**

**March 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>: to April 3<sup>rd</sup> Peer Review Meetings and conferences**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday: Final Revisions in Class and Final Draft due to Blackboard by midnight**

### **Basic Requirements for First Draft**

- Five-six pages/stapled/MLA format (12-size font, Times New Roman, 1" margins, double-spaced)
- "They say, I say" argument with Zipes on his article, "Breaking the Disney Spell"
- Summary and analysis of ONE fairy tale version of *Cinderella* from the Tatar collection
- Summary and analysis of Disney version of *Cinderella*
- Close-reading of film and fairy tale that focuses on language, visual rhetoric, motif, dialogue, and compare/contrast of plot and characters
- Attempt at an argument that either agrees, disagrees, or something in between with Zipes' article
- Use of both paraphrase and quotes from article
- Working thesis statement on ideology within Disney's *Cinderella* and Jack Zipes' "Breaking the Disney Spell"

### **Final Draft Requirements**

- MLA format (12-size font, Times New Roman, 1" margins, double-spaced) and proper citations of article, fairy tale, and film (Works Cited page and in-text citation)
- 6-7 pages (six pages= six full pages, nothing less)
- Consistent use of Disney's *Cinderella* and a fairy tale from the Tatar collection
- "They say, I say" argument with Zipes on his article, "Breaking the Disney Spell"
- Clear summary and analysis of ONE fairy tale version of *Cinderella* from the Tatar collection
- Clear summary and analysis of Disney's version of *Cinderella*
- Close-reading of film and fairy tale that focuses on language, visual rhetoric, motif, dialogue, and compare/contrast of plot and characters
- Attempt at an argument that either agrees, disagrees (or something in between) with Zipes' article
- Use of both paraphrase and quotes from Zipes' article
- Working thesis statement on ideology within Disney's *Cinderella* and Jack Zipes' "Breaking the Disney Spell"
- Clear and original argument that puts yourself in the "they say, I say" context with Zipes

## Objectives

In the first semester, we analyzed visual rhetoric by looking closely at paintings and advertisements. This semester, we will focus on visual rhetoric's relationship to ideology. You need to put yourself in the academic conversation with a specific academic argument on a specific primary text, the film *Cinderella*. You will use Zipes' article on *Cinderella*, "Breaking the Disney Spell", as a foundation for your own thesis. Your thesis should focus on the ideology found in the film's subtext that you find most interesting and apparent. Therefore, because of this focus on visual rhetoric, you will first need to explain Zipes' argument, paraphrase key passages, and examine specific claims in the essay that you find interesting, problematic, and crucial to your own perspective on the "Cinderella" story. You may agree, disagree, or a little bit of both with Zipes' ideas but the key for a successful paper will be for you to explain your own point of view on the article's claims. A keen understanding of his thesis is therefore crucial for the success of this first formal essay of the spring semester.

You MUST look at specific moments in the film and do your *own* close-reading of them with your own interpretative leaps. Keep in mind that the article will be saying one thing about Disney and ideology that you need to either agree with and expand on/naysay and explain why/or both. I will be looking for a clear understanding of the article's argument and your own creative thesis that moves beyond that writer's reading of Disney. Additionally, you must consider how the ideology of the film differs from an ideology you find in one of the fairy tale versions of *Cinderella*. Be creative and choose any version of the fairy tale you find most compelling. This is a great paper to use your "I" effectively since you will literally need to explain how "Zipes argues [x]" while "I say [y]" throughout the essay.