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## Critical Studies – Week 2

### The Inspirations about Reading

It's a really challenging essay for reading. I spend around three or four days to complete all content. The biggest inspiration from the reading of Cyborg manifesto is I need to do more reading exercise and get more knowledge. There are many concepts from different culture, which is interesting and hard for me to get empathy. For example, I feel it difficult to understand this sentence: ***“Nor does it mark time on an oedipal calendar, attempting to heal the terrible cleavages of gender in an oral symbiotic utopia or post-oedipal apocalypse”***. I can't figure out what “an oedipal calendar” means even after I search it on Google. It seems relate to Freudian Psychoanalysis. On the other hand, this experience also teaches me the importance of interdisciplinary knowledge.

The second inspiration from the reading is building the structure is very helpful for understanding the opinion the author wants to express. This seems to be a process of deconstruction. According to the catalogs provided by the author, I try to note some important keywords and sentence. Then I will collect these words to build the sub-structure of each catalog when I finish each chapter. For example, a part of the substructure of the first chapter mentions the three crucial boundary breakdowns: Human and Animals, animal-human (organism) and machine, the boundary between physical and non-physical. These concepts help me understand what is the cyborg emphasized by Haraway.

### The Inspirations about Writing

The inspirations about writing are the structure of the essay and a lot of citations. Haraway demonstrates her own opinions by combining the opinions of others with her own. This makes me feel very applicable. But I don't like her use of many metaphors. Metaphor is a good way to explain author's thinking, but it reduces the efficient of communication. The obvious example is me. As a non-native speaker, and a person without a western cultural background, it's hard for me to understand some concepts. I'm not saying the metaphor is bad. I mean we need try to control the number of metaphors used.

## **An Inspiration about My Project**

I did a project about Digital Human. It is about the human identity after the consciousness is uploaded. The boundary breakdowns about organism and machine, physical and non-physical, give me new perspective on digital human. It also makes me have a lot of questions about digital human.

Will digital humans really exist? What will be rebuilt according to the immortality brought by digital human? How should humans re-examine themselves? I think I need to read more relevant books to figure out these questions.