Hi Xander,

Thank for enclosing your guiding questions! I helped me get an idea of the mindset that is guiding you through your writing and the questions that you hope to explore. As you said in your forethought for your workshop writings, you are seeking to get feedback on the organization of your paragraphs. I definitely understand the struggles of organization especially when dealing with multiple topics and trying to find a form of cohesion. After reading your workshop materials I think the part that stuck with me most is your strong use of summary to assist the readers in understanding not only certain characters’ mindsets but the overall plot of the film. While this is helpful, I think you may have fallen into the trap of too much summary. Something you may find useful, in addition to having a strong first sentence in each paragraph that outlines what you will be discussing is signposting at the end of each paragraph to transition into another paragraph by finding something that both paragraphs relate too. For example, in the sentence “Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind deals with the threat of weapons of mass destruction, an international arms race, imperial warfare, and the dangers of pollution,” this sentence does not have to be so vague, you can be more direct in its themes and even mention the characters that you want to explore in the film. The readers do not need to know all the details of the film but rather can connect more to specific moments that you are citing in you essay to back up your argument. You can mention both films and characters from both films in the same paragraph to come and contrast rather than separating them during your summary paragraphs. This will help readers keep both films in mind as you get further into your paper. It might even be helpful to write as much as you want about summary and then copy edit and only keep the strongest sentences.