

## Paper 2: Image and Text in Graphic Narrative

due Thursday October 19 at 11:59 PM by Courseweb upload

Choose **any chapter after chapter 2** of *Watchmen* and **analyze how the images relate to the text** in developing plot, character, or theme.

### Topic Options:

- 1) You might consider the use of color, shading, scale, or line, focusing on representative panels within the chapter. How do one or two particularly significant graphic elements contribute to telling the story or developing character(s)? In what ways are the images related to the use of words in the panels?
- 2) You might consider the representation of print media (signs, newspapers, books) or televised, moving images as framed within the panels of the chapter.
- 3) You might consider the representation of spoken words from settings other than what is directly pictured in particular panels, and the connection of those words with the images on the panel, page, and chapter.
- 4) You might consider a long text document that Moore represents within the comic—as an image of a material document from the world of *Watchmen*. How might this document relate to elements of the chapter in which it is placed? How do the contents of this document help to set up a theme, a point of characterization, or an ironic statement in a particular chapter or in the comic as a whole?

**Format:** Your paper should be between 4 - 6 double-spaced pages (or 2 - 3 single-spaced pages), using a font no larger than 12-point Arial or Times New Roman. Provide a **clear and specific title** for your work—but note that there is no need for a separate title page. In the upper left-hand corner, put your name, Englit 0626: Science Fiction, and indicate the date the assignment is due. Your paper should have one-inch margins at the top, bottom, left, and right, and page numbers should appear in either a header or footer (in a consistent position at the top or bottom of the page). Follow MLA style for formatting your heading, page headers, and quotations (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/> for how to format block quotes and short quotes). Note: you should be working closely with passages in the readings and quoting short passages as appropriate to illustrate your points.

**Good Paper Writing:** In your introductory paragraph, set up your topic, define your thesis statement, and establish what particular elements or passages from each text you will be exploring in your paper. Avoid simply repeating my phrasing of a general topic on this assignment sheet. Your **thesis statement** should work to set up a more specific argument you will develop in the paper. In this case, it should clearly establish how your two texts resemble or differ from each other. This is an interpretation of a major idea in both texts that you are arguing for, and one that you can support and develop in the following paragraphs with reference to key passages in each text.

**Hint:** Serious paper writers often rewrite their thesis statements. You may find that you come up with a very good one at the \*end\* of your paper, when you've finished comparing and contrasting important passages and/or scenes. If that happens, be sure your introductory paragraph contains your most up-to-date thesis!

Think about the size and shape of your paragraphs, and how they connect with each other. **Each paragraph** should be clearly related to the ones it precedes and follows, and it should relate to the thesis statement you're trying to persuade your reader (me) to accept. Work on your **transitions** between paragraphs so that it is clear how your argument is developing. Each paragraph should raise a point and develop and support it by referring to specific passages, chapters, or episodes from the novels. **Quote from the text** if you want to draw attention to the language of a specific passage, but quote only the material that you need to demonstrate your point. Any material you quote should be followed by your analysis of that quote: If it's not worth discussing, don't quote the passage. If it does help your argument, then quote judiciously, comment on the context of the passage in the reading, and use MLA citation style to indicate the page number you're referring to. When referring to frames or boxes in a graphic novel, indicate the page and the frame number if possible, working from left-to-right and top-to-bottom of the page. When referring to scenes in a film, comment on about when these scenes occur or what is happening in the scene.

**Research is not required** for this paper, but consulting one or more outside sources could enhance the quality of your work, provided that you use and quote from them responsibly. Be sure that any outside research you do helps you to make your argument, and **remains focused on your thesis**.

**Plagiarism Warning:** Failure to cite an outside source of information, as well as misrepresenting another person's words or ideas as your own, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Depending on the severity of the case, such plagiarism may result in failure of the course. Cite any sources of information and all material you quote using MLA format and in your list of Works Cited.

**Evaluation:** Review my [Grading Standards for English Literature Papers](#). I keep this document in front of me when I grade, so it will help you to familiarize yourself with it. The document explains the three areas of purpose, content, and expression that guide my evaluation of papers in my literature courses.

**\*\*\*Confused? Need Help? Ask me!** I can help if you are having trouble understanding something in your source materials, if you aren't quite sure how to focus your paper, if you would like some personalized guidance with researching, or if you would like me to read a draft. Stop by my office in FOB 204 or arrange a meeting with me. **Or stop by the Learning Resource Center** (Room 240 Millstein Library) to visit a writing tutor there if you need help at any stage of your writing process: but **bring this paper assignment sheet with you** and specific requests for help, since the student tutors may not be familiar with this assignment.