A. How do you categorize this text among the various NARRATIVE ELEMENTS?

1. Genre 2.Subject 3. Theme 4. Conflict

5. Master Plot 6. Tone 7. Mood 8. Narrative/Point of View

Double space between prompt & content too Ice Cube’s music video “It Was a Good Day” can be classified in the GENRE of urban given the South Central Los Angeles setting and the socio-economic culture of the people in the area. In the world of gansta rap where the songs continually address major conflicts and issues in life, “It Was a Good Day” takes a different approach by focusing on the SUBJECT of everyday normalcy. Similarly, the THEME of the video is that even in the worst of conditions or places there are still good days to be had. Theme: Theme MUST repeat the Subject (what is the lesson on the Subject?). The major conflict present in the video is character vs. society as Ice Cube drinks and drives, does drugs and has a lot of sex, conflicting with societal morals. At the same time, Ice Cube is also in conflict with societal laws because he is making illegal decisions which ultimately bring the police to his door. The MASTER PLOT Use Small Caps, not ALL CAPS for style of the episode can be described as wretched excess because Ice Cube drives around in his fancy car, smoking weed and drinking alcohol and constantly talking about having sex with a girl. The TONE of the video is playful with a hint of irony since Ice Cube’s ‘good day’ ends in utter catastrophe. From the perspective of the audience, the MOOD is at ease and joyful. The entire video and song are shown from the 1st person POV of Ice Cube. And the Camera POV?

B. Do a CHARACTER ANALYSIS – Protagonist, Antagonist, Foil, Minor Characters, and Archetypes:

The protagonist of “It Was A Good Day” is Ice Cube. He fits into the Bad Boy archetype, as he is a player and a rebel throughout the song. The antagonist is the chief of police, who fulfills the role of The Tyrant by trying to ruin Ice Cube’s good day and flaunting his authority over Ice Cube. The foils in the video are the two policemen who don’t pull over Ice Cube, as they serve to show the contrast between white men and black men in the city, and they also serve as a foil to the chief of police because they are much cooler about letting Ice Cube go about his way without interfering than the chief of police. In addition, the girl from the 12th grade works as a foil, highlighting aspects of Ice Cubes personality and gender. The minor characters in the video include Ice Cube’s mother, the people playing basketball, and the guys playing craps. Well done section. Spot on analysis.

C. Describe two examples of INTERTEXTUALITY:

As learned in class, intertextuality is the way texts refer to other texts. At 2:04 You can skip time stamps. I'll know what you mean by a brief description. in the music video, Ice Cube directly mentions going to his friend Short Dog's house to watch Yo! MTV Raps. The lyrics from this example of intertextuality are: “Went to $hort Dog's house, they was watchin Yo! MTV Raps”. A direct mention, as learned in class, is when a text directly mentions other Pop Culture artifacts by name. Omit definition and description of terms & concepts Within this one example, there are two direct mentions: $hort Dog Is this $tyling that of Shorty from Da Lench Mob or from Too $hort? (One is correct, one isn't). and Yo! MTV Raps. Furthermore, an example of a different kind of intertextuality found within Ice Cube’s hit, “It Was A Good Day” is trace. As learned in class, trace is the residue of texts present in other texts. Ice Cube used the instrumental from “Footsteps in the Dark,” recorded by the Isley Brothers for his hit. The residue from “Footsteps in the Dark,” is apparent in “It Was A Good Day” because it uses the song’s instrumental, or background music. Throughout the music video there are many more examples of intertextuality including more direct mentions, a few indirect allusions, and another trace.

D. Pick one symbol that creates meaning in the text and do a six-step SYMBOLIC ANALYSIS:

The symbol that stuck out ~~to me~~ in Ice Cubes music video is the gun sitting on the desk right at the beginning (0:28) of the video. The gun in this specific music video can symbolize many different things that are relevant throughout the story. Pick one. The more obvious characteristic the gun reflects is violence and crime. The video is held in a ghetto city that is filled with breaking the law, gambling, and gangs. The gun is repeatedly referenced in a few different ways. This should be Step #2, before the Meaning of the Symbol. Not only does Ice Cube rap about his “A.K” but he also says how the girl referred to him as “top gun.” This ~~symbolization~~ meaning is important and is beneficial for the story because in a way, it summarizes what the setting of the video is surrounded around. #5: Other interpretations? Power - Authority - Phallus - Youth - Freedom - etc The police are shown in the video and at the end, the police and swat team are aiming their guns towards Ice Cube. Cube also raps about how no one was killed in Central L.A and grave yard with people surrounding a grave is shown. With most gang fights in types of cities like that, guns are used. I think the symbolization of guns in this video and their symbol outside this text are usually pretty similar. Guns are usually connected with violence, bloodshed, death, and the police (law). Any textual examples?

E. How is this typical or unique approach to HEGEMONY & IDEOLOGY? Does this text make the world a better/worse place? Did you like the text or not, and why? Based on those things, who is the target AUDIENCE?

Although the protagonist (Ice Cube) does not agree with the American hegemony we believe that the overall plot line of the music video reinforces it. Good distinctions. We believe this due to the fact that Ice Cube is not white, wealthy, or well educated. This may seem to challenge hegemony but as defined, hegemony is the dominant power structure in society. Towards the end of the video cops (the dominant power structure) show up to arrest Ice Cube. These cops were all middle aged, well bodied, white men. Yet, that white power structure never actually apprehends him. He dismisses them (after earlier flaunting and flouting them). Although this video may support hegemony we feel as if most of the video challenges American Ideology. For example, and American ideology is that women get married and the men work to support their kids; but in this case Ice Cube was raised by a single mother. Another ideology within the American culture that is challenged by Ice Cube is that life is sacred because for Ice Cube life full of fear, anger, and could end at any moment.

We believe that this video makes the world a better place in the larger picture because it shows the racism and life that many people go through and by showing these true colors society will then be able to take action in changing these issues. Because of this positive effect on society most of us enjoyed this video but, others did not care for the music video due to high amounts of stereotypes that create racism. The targeted audience for this video would have to be male African Americans aged 18-34. These beings also are straight and in the working class who are either high school educated or less. We believe this due to the overwhelming amount of heterosexuality and that the video was composed of 98% African Americans.