

AHS1130 Seeing and Hearing Fall 2007
Homework#7 writing assignment

Assigned: Monday, October 15th

Due: Monday, October 22nd

You will be writing a six-page analysis paper, i.e. approximately 1500 words, double-spaced, on "Fast, Cheap and Out of Control" by Errol Morris which is due at the beginning of class on October 22nd. The paper should begin with a thesis statement in the first paragraph, which you will then substantiate using evidence. As the documents you received last week from Gillian explain, evidence is used to support, develop, enhance and/or strengthen a thesis or argument. You should develop a thesis statement based on the prompt stated below:

What does Morris's film suggest is significant about self-discovery as revealed by the relationships between at least two of the individuals and the organisms with which they interact?

REMINDER: Avoid clichés and generalizations; make sure to articulate the significance (third story) of your thesis, and to be careful to support your claims with concrete examples from the film.

Your analysis will be based on spoken language, visual elements and sound, not written language such as that found in a book or article. Therefore, it is particularly important that you include an analysis of the cinematic elements that Morris uses to build or reinforce the narrative from which the themes emerge. Cinematic elements include archival footage, cartoons, music, lighting, sound effects, silence, interview techniques (e.g., the use of the interrotron), and editing techniques (e.g., voice-over, flash-backs, quick cutting), and visual effects (e.g., dissolves, black screens, image overlays).

Choose at least two cinematic elements and identify three examples of the use of each element to support, develop, enhance or strengthen your thesis about the film. Be sure to indicate the scene number, title of the scene and be specific in describing the example so that the reader will have no difficulty recognizing your example in the film.

If you plan to use direct quotations from participants in the film you can view the complete transcript at <http://www.errolmorris.com/film/fcooc.html>

Please feel free to consult the writing tutor, Amy Dyer, for assistance with your project.

Deposit your paper as a Microsoft word document that can be opened using Microsoft Word 2004 (i.e. do not format using Microsoft Word 2007) and place it in the HMWRK#7 Writing Assignment folder on the classroom computer.