

English 498: Adapting Texts

Star Wars Case Study Grading Criteria

A 35- to 40-Point Essay (3.5-4.0, A Range)

- ❖ Has a substantive thesis, and essay fully explores the analytical possibilities and limitations of adaptation theory; the thesis is defensible, clearly explained, and entirely supported in the body of the essay.
- ❖ Shows substantial depth, richness and complexity of thought.
- ❖ Expresses ideas clearly and commands the reader's attention.
- ❖ Demonstrates clear, unified and coherent organization.
- ❖ Is fully developed and detailed with arguments supported by persuasive reasoning and references to theory, film and book; there is an appropriate balance between providing evidence and analyzing that evidence.
- ❖ Has a sophisticated style (remarkable variety of sentence pattern, smooth transitions between ideas, superior control of diction).
- ❖ Properly cites source material.
- ❖ Has few, if any, minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics.

A 25- to 34-Point Essay (2.5-3.4, B Range)

- ❖ Has a clear thesis that addresses the analytical possibilities and limitations of adaptation theory, but essay may not fully explore all elements of the main argument; the thesis may be well argued, but could use additional support or development in the body of the essay; or the thesis may be identifiable, but not sharply focused.
- ❖ Shows some depth and complexity of thought.
- ❖ Expresses ideas clearly.
- ❖ Demonstrates effective organization.
- ❖ Is well developed with sensible reasoning and appropriate references to theory, film and book; however, some evidence may detract from the thesis and some ideas might not be discussed in adequate depth.
- ❖ Demonstrates balance between evidence and analysis for the most part, but balance may be weak in places.
- ❖ Has an effective style (some variety of sentence patterns, transitions between ideas, accurate diction).
- ❖ Properly cites source material, but may have errors in citation format.
- ❖ Has few errors in grammar, usage or mechanics.

A 15- to 24-Point Essay (1.5-2.4, C Range)

- ❖ Has a thesis that may not be entirely clear and essay only partially explores the analytical possibilities and limitations of adaptation theory.
- ❖ Shows insufficient awareness of the complexity of issues addressed; may treat the theory simplistically or selectively
- ❖ Communicates ideas clearly for the most part, but may have some lapses in clarity

- ❖ Has a recognizable organizational pattern, but the relation among parts is not consistently clear enough to provide a coherent focus
- ❖ Is unevenly developed; writer may offer sufficient reasoning or references to text for some of the ideas but not for others
- ❖ Demonstrates some balance between evidence and analysis
- ❖ Has an adequate style (limited variation in sentence patterns, transitions between most ideas, diction accurate for the most part)
- ❖ Cites the majority of source material, but occasionally material may be clearly cited but not referenced in parentheses
- ❖ Has some errors in grammar, usage or mechanics, but demonstrates basic control of these areas

A 7- to 14-Point Essay (.7-1.4, D Range)

- ❖ Has an unclear thesis; essay references the analytical possibilities and limitations of adaptation theory and meets basic length requirements, but does not address the topic in any meaningful fashion.
- ❖ Lacks focus or demonstrates confused, stereotyped or simplistic thinking; writer may demonstrate no overall conception of adaptation theory.
- ❖ May not communicate ideas clearly.
- ❖ Is ineffectively organized, with no clear relationship between the parts of the essay.
- ❖ May not provide adequate or appropriate reasoning or textual references to support generalizations, or may provide details without generalizations.
- ❖ Demonstrates little relationship between evidence and the thesis.
- ❖ Has stylistic weaknesses (no variety of sentence patterns, few transitions, imprecise diction).
- ❖ Indicates use of source material, but does not have consistent parenthetical references.
- ❖ Has occasional major errors in grammar, usage or mechanics or frequent minor errors that interfere in the reader's understanding of the essay.

A 0- to 6-Point Essay (0-.6, F Range)

- ❖ Has no thesis or has an incomprehensible thesis that does not engage the analytical possibilities and limitations of adaptation theory.
- ❖ May be deliberately off-topic and demonstrate no understanding of adaptation theory.
- ❖ Does not communicate ideas clearly.
- ❖ Lacks coherent organization.
- ❖ Shows no development of ideas; may simply summarize fictional texts or randomly quote theory.
- ❖ Has an incoherent style (difficulties with sentence structure, pattern of diction errors).
- ❖ Presents another writer's work as the author's own.
- ❖ Has pervasive pattern of errors in grammar, usage and mechanics that renders the essay unreadable.