

The Hollywood Sign: Analyzing the Text of Film

REQUIREMENTS

- **Page length:** Your essay **must** be between 3 and 4 typed, double-spaced pages (750-1000 words).
- **Writing mode:** analytical/expository
- **Audience:** adults/college students; assume your audience knows *nothing* about the subject.
- **Purpose:** to explain, to analyze, and to interpret.
- **SAE:** Remember, your paper must follow the basic conventions of Standard American written English (correct mechanics, usage, grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and so forth).
- **REMINDER:** This essay must be written in the third person, so you **may not** use "you" or "I" at all in this assignment. *Be sure to use the present tense whenever you discuss what authors of outside sources say.* Also make sure you introduce the author and title of any outside sources in the correct manner.
- **USING AN OUTSIDE SOURCE:** This paper requires that you cite from an outside source. Consequently you must use the MLA in-text parenthetical notation method and add a Works Cited page at the end of your essay. You **must** use Modleski's essay as either as a *springboard* to launch your own ideas to further her views or as a point of disagreement supporting *your own* different interpretation of the signs in the film.

WRITING WORKSHOP ROUGH DRAFT DUE July 1 **FINAL DRAFT DUE** July 6

WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

This essay will involve turning our analytical minds to film and interpreting what the signs and images on celluloid mean. It is very necessary that you both carefully read and understand Tania Modleski's essay, "Dead White Male Heterosexual Poets Society" in addition to Peter Weir's film *Dead Poets Society*.

Take a **stance** on Tania Modleski's essay, "Dead White Male Heterosexual Poets Society." In it she asserts that Peter Weir's film *Dead Poets Society* is about male homosexual repression. She uses the term "disclaimers" and finds examples of them to illustrate that the film is deliberately trying to deny the real story it wishes to tell about this New England boys' preparatory school. In a carefully written essay, support Modleski's essay by finding additional examples of these "disclaimers" beyond the ones she describes. You may also expand on the ones Modleski uses as long as you **interpret** these scenes in **greater depth** than she does. *Alternatively, you may reject her thesis but must still find textual support in the film to challenge Modleski's interpretation of Weir's film. You must still discuss Modleski's essay even if you take this approach.*

In the essay, you **must** carefully set up its **framework** in the introduction. For example, briefly summarize Modleski's essay, her position, and introduce and explain the concepts she uses, like "disclaimers."

Works Cited
