

**The Hollywood Sign: Analyzing the Text of Film**

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**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 a *springboard* to launch your own ideas or at least to further and more completely develop her views.

**WRITING WORKSHOP ROUGH DRAFT DUE \_\_\_\_\_ FINAL DRAFT DUE \_\_\_\_\_**

**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*.

In Tania Modleski's essay, "Dead White Male Heterosexual Poets Society," she asserts that Peter Weir's film *Dead Poets Society* is about male homosexual repression. She asserts the that the film is an "hysterical text" and finds examples of "textual incoherences" and "disclaimers" 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 "textual incoherences" and "disclaimers" beyond the ones she describes. You may expand on the ones Modleski uses as long as you **interpret** these scenes in **greater depth** than she does. *Additionally, you must locate your own examples of "disclaimers" and "textual incoherences" to support Modleski's claim that this film is really about male homosexual repression.*

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" and "textual incoherences."

Works Cited

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