

## ETS 142

### SUBJECTIVITY ESSAY – SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAFTING

**Directions:** Use this handout to guide you while drafting your essay. Use it to construct an outline for your essay on \_\_\_\_\_. Include a statement of how the claim would appear in its initial and evolved forms.

Practice incorporating these **main concepts** into your analysis.

- Subject / Subjectivity / Subject position
- Interpellation
- Agency

#### **Introduction – Establishing an interpretive context:**

- Introduce the text, the cultural context in which it appeared, and what's at stake for the *kinds of* subjects portrayed in the text.
- Include research, as needed, to substantiate the importance of the above.
- Transition into your claim about the text. This should include the aspects of subjectivity you will emphasize.

Note: it is not mandatory for your claim to appear in the first paragraph.

#### **Body – Incorporating these concepts into your analysis of a text:** Consider:

- How do the subjects in the text view themselves? How are they viewed by others? How does their environment affect them?
- How do these judgments affect their behavior? How do they respond to their social context?
- Who has power? Who doesn't? What are the sources of power? How do characters attempt to gain or maintain power?
- How does the text encourage the audience to understand them and their struggle?
- Is it fruitful to explore negotiated or oppositional readings of the characters?

#### **Conclusion – Exploring implications:** Consider these questions:

- What is interesting / revealing / strange / problematic about how *this text* reinforces or challenges our perceptions of *these characters'* subjectivity?
- What is interesting / revealing / strange / problematic about the agency exhibited by these characters? How does it compare to our ideologies about people in such circumstances?
- What is interesting / revealing / strange / problematic about how the text engages the paradigms, narratives, and myths associated with this kind of story? To what degree does the text reinforce or challenge them?

Note: your conclusion may very well be longer than one paragraph.