

Controlling Narratives and Telling the Truth

Habits of Mind Objectives Used:

Focus, Advance, Link Up, Comprehend, Organize, New Ideas

Dates: **26 March – Prewriting – Brainstorm, Free write**

21 April – Prospectus due to Canvas by 11:59 PM

23 April – Annotated bibliography due to Canvas by 11:59 PM

25 April – Peer review and workshop on Canvas

28 April – Final Draft due – submit to Canvas by 11:59 PM

In Cold Blood began a new way of telling news in America. Truman Capote wrote, what is often considered, the first non-fiction novel. The non-fiction novel combines elements of news reporting and storytelling. Often blurring the lines between fact and fiction – what is often true might have some literary enhancements to aid the audience to reach a conclusion the author projects. Due to this blending and engrossing form of storytelling, the responsibility of reader and writer shift. Readers need to question what the author is stating and think about not accepting everything at face value because it is sensational. While writers need to think about their stories and how to tell them in such a way as to achieve maximum impact. Writers control the narratives in such a way as to make sure that readers focus only on what they feel is important. In *In Cold Blood*, Capote wants readers to understand the “truth” behind isolation, nostalgia, the American Dream, the American Myth, and the legal system – capital punishment specifically. What is Capote asking his readers to think about? What is his responsibility as a writer when telling a story? How is he defining truth? How does it impact the way we perceive society? By controlling the narrative, are we removing the need for our readers to think and question, or offering alternatives?

Prompt: What is the “truth” Capote presents to readers? Why is this “truth” important and how does it influence reader’s perceptions of society?

Come up with your opinion on this topic, but present it in third person point-of-view – from an academic stand point. Please use scholarly journals, newspapers (from the list), or peer reviewed articles to support your argument. Wikipedia is not an acceptable resource.

Please support your paper with at least eight in-text citations from at least eight different sources and there needs to be a works cited page at the end of your essay. Please have your essay in MLA format. The above dates are when we will be working on the drafts in class, unless otherwise noted

A successful essay will include the following:

- Thesis statement including a claim, reasons, and a counterpoint

- Topic sentences with specific supporting details - including eight to twelve in-text citations from eight sources – including 2 scholarly journal articles
- Guidelines followed
- Organized and focused
- In MLA format
- Works cited page with 8 sources
- In Standard Formal English
- Third person point of view
- Scholarly Journals, Newspaper articles from acceptable sources, or Peer Reviewed articles that will support your argument (NO Wikipedia)

Have fun with this essay, take this opportunity to explore and learn something new. Use concrete and specific language in your writing. **Focus** on your essay's **Organization** and incorporate **New Ideas**/risks in your writing. Your essay is to be 10 – 12 pages (at least 3,500 words), Times New Roman, 12point font, one-inch margins and double-spaced. You must have at least eight, but no more than twelve in-text citations and a works cited page. The works cited page doesn't count toward the page count. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please **Link Up** with me or a group member. Good Luck!

Reading:

Capote - *In Cold Blood*