ASSIGNMENT #2: RESEARCH PAPER

Due: 03/05/10 at 5pm on T-square.

Late policy reminder: I will deduct half a letter grade for assignments that are submitted late. I will not accept assignments that are more than 24hrs late unless you document a severe illness or family/personal crisis.

Goal of the assignment:

You will write an original research paper on a topic of your choice related to television and American culture.

Each Friday before the deadline we will devote class time to discussing and/or working on your paper. You will be asked to complete preliminary tasks that help you to finish your paper on time, such as a preliminary bibliography, an outline, an excerpt for peer review, etc. Details will be announced in class.

Formal Requirements:

2500 words (+/- 100 words); bibliography does not count towards your final word count

Formatted according to an academic style manual (e.g. MLA)

Incorporation of at least three academic books or journal articles that we haven’t read in class; you may use additional popular or academic sources

Content:

Your paper will present a critical analysis of your chosen topic. Your analysis must cover two of the six facets of Mittell’s circuit of culture model. These two facets should be integrated into a coherent and thoughtful argument.

Resources

How to find articles and books:

- Library catalog
- Mittell’s suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter
- Academic Search Complete, an extensive database that includes full text of many academic journals and popular magazines (access via http://library.gatech.edu/)
- FlowTV (TV Studies journal): http://flowtv.org/
• Wikipedia is a great tool to find summaries of TV episodes; however, Wikipedia doesn't count towards the required sources for your paper

**How to find TV shows:**

• Streaming episodes and clips at Hulu: http://www.hulu.com/browse/alphabetical/tv
• Borrow DVDs from the library. The following DVD sets are on reserve for our class:
  
  *All in the Family*, S1
  *The Cosby Show*, S2
  *I Love Lucy*, S3
  *Leave it to Beaver*, S2
  *Lost*, S1
  *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, S1
  *Glee*, S1