

Questions for Analyzing "Idea Channel" Videos

ENGL 1102 – Georgia Southern University – Spring 2016

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These questions are used to help students analyze the form and content of YouTube videos from the creator "Idea Channel." Idea Channel videos primarily focus on academic cultural analysis of current popular trends. Their content can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/pbsideachannel>

- What is the main question that Mike starts with? Why does he ask this question?
- What are some of the subsequent questions that Mike asks to get deeper into the subject? How does one question lead to the next?
- What is the most interesting question Mike asks in the course of his inquiry? Why?
- Which questions yielded the most interesting insights, discoveries, or information?
- How does Mike go about answering some of the questions he asks? What references, resources, or evidence does he call upon to provide answers? Do you think his methods of "answering" are reasonable and credible? What other methods of "finding answers" would you use?
- Give examples of some questions that seem reasonably well answered, and some that were still left very uncertain.
- Did Mike adequately explore the topic? Are there any questions that he left unasked and/or unanswered (to your satisfaction)?
- Do you agree with his conclusions (such as they are) by the end of the video?
- Respond to the questions that Mike asks at the end of the video (in your own opinion).
- Go to the next video after the one you watched, and check out the comment responses at the end. How did some other users answer his questions, and what do you think of their answers? What do you think of Mike's responses?
- What genre conventions (for YouTube videos) do you notice? That is, what elements of the form of the video mark it as distinctly a "YouTube Video" and not some other genre (like research paper, documentary movie, etc.)?

Writing Prompt for Homework/Blog Post:

Watch 2 Idea Channel episodes of your choice. For one of them, just summarize briefly (2-4 sentences) the content of the video and your thoughts in response to it. For the other video, write a longer analysis of both Mike's inquiry process and the ideas in the video, using the questions above as a guide. Please link both videos in your entry.