

21W.730

SPRING 2001

First Assignment: Reader/Writer Notebook: **MEDIA ARTIFACTS**

Due: Thurs. 2/8 in class.

Media culture -print, screen, digital- plays a critical role in our everyday lives as we make sense of ourselves and the world around us. For your first notebook assignment, you are asked to think critically about the role of media in your own life and environment.

Select one or two artifacts that express your own taste and experience of the media. These “media artifacts” can reflect your relationship with any of the dominant media within American society or another society (i.e. print, film, television, radio, music, theater, comic books, cyberspace, etc.) The artifact(s) that you choose should have particular meaning for you. Some examples of possible choices include favorite books, magazines or newspapers, CDs, ads, photographs or posters, videotapes or DVDs, audiotapes, videogames, theater playbills, etc.

Type 1-2 pages on the meaning of this object(s) in your life and , if possible, bring the artifact(s) with you to class. Be prepared to speak for a few minutes about the cultural significance of this “media artifact”. Your goal should be to share with us something meaningful about your participation in popular culture. I will collect these assignments and return them next class with comments. As the course develops, you will have the option of developing this exercise into a fourth essay that analyzes your own evolving relationship to contemporary media culture.