Visual Analysis Assignment: Reflecting on *The Blind Side*

DUE:

# Purpose

## Skills

In order to demonstrate your ability to apply textual analysis skills to multimodal texts, we will conduct a visual narrative analysis of images from the film *The Blind Side.* Your visual analysis will use narrative analysis tools to support popular critiques of the film’s handling of the intersection of race, class, and gender through either the character of LeighAnn or Michael. increasing reading/writing strategy and skills development over the course of the semester, you will create a portfolio demonstrating and explaining your mastery of **SIX** strategies or skills. The purpose of this assignment is to document how you have achieved the learning outcomes for our class (listed below in the next section).

* we will apply our textual analysis skills to multimodal texts (e.g., image and video from the movie *The Blind Side*). Through the tools of narrative analysis--or how stories are told--we will examine two movie characters to understand media portrayals of the intersection of race, class, and gender.
* The purpose of this unit is to apply our text analytical skills beyond reading and interpreting words on the page.
* By the end of this unit, you will be able to identify common narrative analysis tools and explain how these tools perpetuate intersecting race, class, and gender-based stereotypes in the film *The Blind Side*and other media (Visual Analysis assignment)

## Knowledge

Completing this assignment will demonstrate your proficiency related to the following learning outcomes for our class:

* Make inferences and evaluate texts for author assumptions and the validity of claims within and across texts
* Identify and evaluate the relevance and quality of ideas in multiple modalities; develop rhetorically sound arguments by applying multiple supports for a claim and selecting appropriate language
* Develop and use effective drafting and revision strategies to strengthen college-level writing in multiple modalities
* Recognize and apply conventions of academic English in reading and writing, including appropriately incorporate the ideas and words of others

# Tasks

After learning about common narrative analysis tools, you will apply these tools to images from *The Blind Side* in order to explore representations of racial ideologies in the film. We will focus on the significance question: How do these tools reinforce racist ideologies in the movie The Blind Side and ultimately our society?

Carefully examine the movie trailer using the narrative analysis tools we have discussed above. Jot down notes about examples that you see in [the trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvqj_Tk_kuM) of powerful, significant uses of these tools. We will be analyzing several images around the class to create our reflection + significance statements.

Take a picture of an image of **Michel Orr** from *The Blind Side* film for analysis in your assignment. Briefly explain the narrative tool that you are using to analyze your chosen image. Next, explain the image as it relates to your analysis: describe key details of the images (these details will help your reader understand the narrative analysis you will be doing.

For example, if I were describing *LeighAnn*,I might describe the way she is presented as wearing light colored clothing, has light hair, and appears to have light shining on her while she is in the dark housing development, surrounded by African American men with dark skin, dark hair, and dark clothing in order to talk about how cinematography is used to present Bullock’s character as pure, angelic, clean, or good in contrast to Michael Orr’s childhood home).

You should describe the images using at least two narrative analysis tools. Finally, conclude with a strong significance statement telling your reader why the narrative analysis is important to “reading” this film, and what conclusions related to race can be drawn about the film and the society which received it so well (remember this was a critically acclaimed, award-winning movie).

Your Visual Analysis Report is worth 20 points. An exemplary report will include a clear thesis statement and evidence summarizing the tools you applied and your findings. Such a report will also describe how the use of the visual narrative tools you analyze from *The Blind Side* reinforce racist ideas in the movie and our society.

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|  | Exemplary | Proficient | Emerging |
| Thesis Statement (2pts) | Thesis statement clearly identifies the narrative tools used, the subject of the image, and the author’s conclusions about the image as representative of the film’s racialized ideologies (2pts) | Thesis statement clearly identifies the narrative tools used and the subject of the image. The author may hint at how the image is representative of the film’s racialized ideologies (1.75pts) | Thesis statement identifies the narrative tools used and the subject of the image, but the thesis may lack clarity or originality (1.5pt) |
| Narrative Analysis Tool 1 Application (6pts) | Narrative tool is explained with sufficient detail so the reader understands how it was applied to the image. Analytical findings are explained, including racial biases (6pts) | Narrative tool is identified but explanation lacks necessary detail to understand application to the image. Analytical findings are explained related to movie (5pts) | Narrative tool is identified but the explanation lacks detail related to how it was applied to the image. Analytical findings are not explained (4pts) |
| Narrative Analysis Tool 2 Application (6pts) | Narrative tool is explained with sufficient detail so the reader understands how it was applied to the image. Analytical findings are succinctly explained, racial biases (6pts) | Narrative tool is identified but explanation lacks necessary detail to understand application to the image. Analytical findings are explained related to movie (5pts) | Narrative tool is identified but the explanation lacks detail related to how it was applied to the image. Analytical findings are not explained (4pts) |
| Significance Statement (2pts) | Analysis concludes with a significance statement explaining how the analyzed image and movie more broadly illustrate a larger social issue. Think text-to-world statement (2pts) | Analysis concludes with a significance statement, but the statement may not go beyond the movie or analysis. (1.5pts) | Analysis concludes with a final sentence but makes no effort to summarize connections between the forms of narrative analysis or larger social issues (1pt) |
| Visual Element (2pts) | Visual element (e.g., screen capture of image) is included in the analysis, introduced (e.g., described for visually impaired readers) and specific aspects of the image are referenced in the analysis (2pts) | Visual element (e.g., screen capture of image) is included in the analysis. Aspects of the image are referenced in the analysis sporadically (1.5pts) | Visual element (e.g., screen capture of image) is included in the analysis but specific aspects of the image are not referenced in the analysis (1pts) |
| Edited Academic English and Use of MLA Formatting (2pts) | Image and movie are properly attributed according to MLA format. The few issues with edited academic English, including punctuation, do not impede comprehension. (2pts) | Image and movie are properly attributed according to MLA format. A few issues with edited academic English or punctuation may do impede comprehension. (1.5pts) | Several issues with source attribution or edited academic English impede comprehension. (1pt) |