

Queer Film & TV: Project #1: The Production Code

For the first project, you will create a 5-8min video essay about queer visibility during the Production Code era, accompanied by a 1,500-2,000-word statement that relates your video essay to our readings.

The focus of your video essay will be narrow: it examines one or two elements of queer visibility as they play out in one film.

The focus of your statement will be broader. It should outline how this one film and its use of queer visibility fit into the history of and scholarship about the Production Code era.

The video essay:

- Focus on one Hollywood film made between 1930-1968
- Examine how this film includes specific aspects of queer visibility during the Production Code era
- Employ editing techniques we have studied (feel free to explore more, like a voice-over)
- Your video essay should have a clear concept that you show through your editing choices
- Please include a title card and credits

The statement

- Places your video essay into a conversation with our readings about queer visibility in Hollywood film through direct references and quotes (you may include additional sources that we haven't read for class, perhaps from the suggested readings)
- Clearly spells out your argument about the film and its connection to queer visibility during the Production Code era, especially if your video essay is more poetic and open-ended (see [this post](#) in *[in]transition* for an example)

As we discussed, videographic criticism uses editing modes that range from the poetic to the explanatory, and in the best cases, combine both. The poetic mode relies on associations and juxtapositions between images or images and music to evoke a reaction in the viewer whereas the explanatory mode relies on voice-over and on-screen text to guide the viewer's reaction in how to interpret the media texts discussed in the video essay. In other words, the poetic mode leaves more room for the viewer to draw their own conclusions whereas the explanatory mode often clearly states an argument and walks viewers through an analysis of a film/TV show.

Your statement goes hand-in-hand with your video essay. If your video essay is very poetic, your statement should spell out clearly what argument you are making and what you were trying to say about the film in your video essay. If your video essay is more explanatory, your statement should not simply repeat the information you present in your video essay, but offer additional insights.

One of the challenges of this assignment is figuring out how and what kind of information is best conveyed in the video essay and which is best expressed through written words.

