# Morse

# Essay 1 (10%): Critical Reflective Essay

**What to do.** For this essay assignment, you will reflect critically on icons, artifacts, or images that represent your generation. Using critical reflection, analyze one icon, artifact, *or* image you select. How has your selection come to represent your generation? What is the value of your selection to your generation or how does it represent values of your generation? Include justification for your choice.

**The purpose.**

* To develop an ability to analyze personal experiences, in this case those that relate to representation of your generation
* To give you practice constructing an academic essay—one that contains a cohesive analysis that makes a point, is developed and well-supported
* To give you practice in close reading—picking apart a “text” and examining the features that are supportive of your own ideas
* To practice writing strong thesis statements

**Not the purpose.** Your essay should *not* merely summarize or list examples of icons, artifacts, or images that represent your generation. Your essay should *not* simply describe the icon, artifact, or image you select. Your essay should *not* simply summarize, describe, or list the different meanings of the icon, artifact, or image you select.

**Audience /Length/Format.** Write this analysis for other members of your generation—what can they learn from your critical reflections to help them understand your generation better? All drafts must be without a cover page, typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in 12 point Times New Roman font.

**Due Dates.**

**5/26: In-Class Writing.** We will use class time to begin drafting Essay 1. Goals will be for you to leave with a working thesis, ideas for supporting evidence, and what you hope your readers will learn from your essay.

**5/31: Workshop.** We will peer review complete drafts of Essay 1. We will focus on thesis development, supporting evidence for your thesis, and essay cohesion. We will use remaining class time to begin making revisions.

**6/2: Final Draft with Workshop Drafts in your Writing Portfolio.** This draft is a comprehensive revision reflecting comments and decisions made during your workshops. This draft should be about 3-5 pages long and include a “Works Cited” in MLA format.